

Reagan, aides face questioning

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan and his top cabinet officers have submitted to questioning in a special Justice Department investigation into the secret Iran arms sale that is rocking Mr. Reagan's presidency, a Justice Department official disclosed Wednesday. The official said the inquiry — begun on Friday with Mr. Reagan's blessing and made public on Tuesday — started at the very top in its effort to find out whether laws were broken in a deal that sent U.S. arms to Iran and millions of dollars in proceeds funnelled to U.S.-backed contra-rebels in Nicaragua. The official said the inquiry, led personally by Attorney General Edwin Meese, included questioning of Mr. Reagan, Vice-President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey.

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King visits wireless corps facilities

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, visited the Royal Wireless Corps Academy on Wednesday. The King and Gen. Sharif Zaid toured the academy's lecture halls and maintenance workshops.

Rifai meets Kamal

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Wednesday held talks with Jordan's ambassador to Washington Mohammad Kamal. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, gave no details of the talks. Mr. Kamal is on a short visit to home.

2,467 vote in chamber elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — Results of Tuesday's elections for the 12-seat board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Commerce were expected to be made public by midnight Wednesday and ballot counting continued into late night. The election supervisory committee, headed by Amman Governor Ahmad Hindawi, was counting 2,467 votes that were cast. The chamber has 14,000 registered members.

Sharif Zaid meets Soviet delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker on Wednesday held talks with a Soviet military delegation headed by General Yuri Tchesnovok. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb attended the talks with the four-member delegation which arrived here on Tuesday on a week-long visit to Jordan. No details were available on the talks and officials at the Soviet embassy in Amman were not available for comment.

Cabinet okays accords

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Wednesday endorsed two agreements relevant to Jordan's \$88,000 budget for the Arab Centre for Dry Land Studies and Investments on rain-fed regions in the Kingdom. The latter agreement will be carried out in cooperation with the Arab Centre for Dry Land Studies which is affiliated with the Arab League.

Bangui trial postponed

BANGUI (AP) — Former Emperor Bokassa I went on trial Wednesday, but the proceedings were postponed until Dec. 15 after the prosecutor said the case was not ready for trial. During the sorry but brief opening session, Bokassa repeatedly spoke out in a loud and firm voice, saying he was grateful to late French President Charles de Gaulle and current Premier Jacques Chirac. He did not give reasons for his gratitude. Prosecutor Gabriel Mbodou surprised the courtroom with his admission that the four-page indictment accusing Bokassa of crimes ranging from embezzlement to murder and cannibalism needed more work.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية الأردنية، الربا

Jordan calls for world action to end anti-Arab violence in Jerusalem

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan on Wednesday called on the international community to take immediate action to put an end to Jewish violence against Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem and said that attacks against Arabs in the Holy City were carried out with the knowledge of the Israeli occupation authorities.

Mr. Marwan Dudin, the minister of occupied territories affairs, said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the international community should "bear its responsibility in seriously working towards ending these aggressive actions by Israeli settlers against Arabs."

The Israeli attacks, said the minister, constitute a flagrant

violation of the sanctity of private homes and an open act of humiliating the defenceless Arabs in the occupied city.

The attacks are a reflection of the malice and hostility that the Israeli settlers nurse against the Arabs, Mr. Dudin said citing the "Death to the Arabs" slogan of the settlers.

Jewish militants went on a rampage through Jerusalem,

stoning Arabs and setting fire to their shops, after an Israeli youth was stabbed to death in the city 11 days ago.

Mr. Dudin said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan was following with great concern the attacks by Jewish settlers on the Arab citizens of the Holy City.

He said the attacks were made by various Jewish settler groups with the knowledge of the Israeli authorities and were only a part of what Arabs suffered under Israeli occupation.

In continuing violence against Arabs in Jerusalem, two firebombs were thrown at Palestinian homes on Wednesday.

An Israeli spokesman said two bombs were thrown at the homes of Palestinians in East Jerusalem before dawn Wednesday. The attacks caused damage but no injuries, according to the spokesman.

Iranian missile kills 53, injures over 50 in Baghdad

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — An Iranian missile smashed into a residential area in Baghdad on Wednesday, killing 53 people and wounding over 50 others, after heavy Iraqi air raids on Tuesday on targets of a western Iranian city and an oil export terminal in the Gulf.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein held an emergency meeting of the Iraqi leadership. More than 50 people were also injured when a surface-to-surface rocket smashed into a densely-populated area of the capital at 3:20 a.m.

An official spokesman said President Hussein presided over an emergency meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and Baath Party leadership to discuss the missile attacks and U.S. arms sales to Iran, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

He said arms shipments from the United States and Israel to Iran were "formal confirmation of cooperation between Tehran, Zionism and imperialism continuing since 1979."

The deal also exposed "Zionist-imperialist goals to extend the (Gulf) war and Iranian insistence on rejecting all initiatives to put an end to the conflict," he said.

Iraqi jets raid 7 Iranian camps

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its warplanes attacked seven military camps in north and west Iran on Wednesday, less than 11 hours after an Iranian missile hit Baghdad killing 53 people and injuring 52. A high command communiqué said the intensive raids between 2 p.m. and 4:35 p.m. inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment. The targets included military camps at the towns of Khaneh, Samandaj and Shab-Abed. A second wave communiqué said Iranian air and artillery attacks killed six people and wounded 42 in the southern port of Basra and the northern town of Arbil on Wednesday.

The death toll in Wednesday's missile attack on Baghdad was the heaviest this year, during which Iran has fired six surface-to-surface missiles into the city of 4.5 million, three of them within the past 12 days.

Wailing women and children lined narrow alleys leading to the impact site, where the missile gouged a crater five metres deep and 10 metres across.

A military spokesman said 40 houses were demolished or damaged by the 3.20 a.m. blast, which shattered windows within a half-kilometre radius.

The attack followed heavy Iraqi air raids against targets in Iran and on the Iranian oil export terminal at Larak Island at the mouth of the Gulf.

Iran had warned it would strike at Iraqi targets in return for raids launched by Baghdad's air force. An Iraqi military spokesman said

in turn Wednesday that Iraq would "use its destructive power to retaliate when the time comes."

The Iranian news agency IRNA said the latest missile strike had been aimed at an "intelligence centre" in Baghdad.

Iraq said it sent 54 aircraft on simultaneous raids on Tuesday against six Iranian military targets and a railway station used for military transportation.

Iraqi jets were set three tankers ablaze and destroyed terminal buildings, storage tanks, piers and equipment at Larak Island.

The report of the attack, announced by Iraq Tuesday, came as a search operation was underway in the United Arab Emirates' offshore Abu Al Bakoor oilfield for 10 men missing after an unidentified warplane rocketed a production platform Tuesday and set it on fire.

Reagan names Iran inquiry panel; Meese says more people involved

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan on Wednesday named a team to investigate the arms-for-Iran scandal, racking his administration, and Attorney General Edwin Meese said it appeared that more people were involved in diverting money to Nicaraguan rebels.

In a written statement, Mr. Reagan said a special review board would be led by former Senator John Tower, a top U.S. arms control negotiator, supported by former Secretary of State Edmund Muskie and retired Air Force General Brent Scowcroft, who served as President Gerald Ford's national security adviser.

Mr. Reagan on Tuesday accepted the resignation of National Security Adviser John Poindexter and dismissed a key Poindexter aide, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, after disclosure that funds from clandestine arms sales to Iran were diverted to U.S.-backed anti-government rebels in Nicaragua.

Shortly before Wednesday's announcement, Mr. Meese said that people outside the White House apparently knew of the secret scheme to funnel millions of dollars to Nicaraguan rebels. "It appears there were some others involved," not just Adm. Poindexter and Col. North, Mr. Meese said in an interview on

ABC television network programme, "Good Morning, America."

Mr. Meese said that some commentators apparently were involved as well as "other people who have a tangential relationship to the U.S. government."

Asked if he was referring to people in the government, Mr. Meese replied, "At this stage, I couldn't tell you for sure or tell you that there are not such people."

Mr. Meese said he had not yet talked to the Israelis about their role in the arms and money transfers.

Appearing in another interview, Mr. Meese insisted Adm. Poindexter and Col. North would not be "scapegoats."

"People who have done things will be accurately portrayed and, if necessary, actively prosecuted... if there's anything criminal," he said on the NBC television show "Today."

However, he said that his investigation, begun Friday, has so far found no evidence that others close to Mr. Reagan helped conceal the secret arrangement. "As far as anyone in the top levels of government... we've pretty clearly established at this point that that has not happened."

When asked about widespread speculation in Washington that the operation could not have been conducted without high-level approval, Mr. Meese said none

had been found.

"We've looked into that aspect of it," he said. "The people at the top of the White House, for example the president, the vice-president the other cabinet members, the chief of staff Don Regan — it's pretty clear to us that they were not involved."

Mr. Regan said on Wednesday the diversion of funds had not been reported to him.

"Does the bank president know if a teller in the bank is fiddling around with the books? No," he said in a television interview.

"This is an episode going on and the National Security Council does not report to me."

The Reagan NSC consisted of the president, Vice-President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Treasury Secretary James Baker, Mr. Meese, CIA Director William Casey, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral William Crowe, (See page 2) Mr. Regan himself and Adm. Poindexter.

The NSC staff members, in this case supervised by Adm. Poindexter and including Col. North, are supposed to carry out the policy directives of the council. Mr. Regan said on Tuesday he was not fully informed on the 18-month secret White House initiative involving weapons sales to Iran as part of a strategy to

Crown Prince: Mideast peace beneficial to Europe

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan told a Dutch audience on Wednesday that peace in the Middle East was not only beneficial to the people of the region but also to the European continent.

Addressing members of the Dutch Institute for Economic and Financial Management, the Crown Prince said that the interaction between the Middle East and West Europe had become an established feature in all scopes of cooperation and the results were, at times, to the benefit of either or both sides or detrimental at other times.

In his address, the Crown Prince reviewed Jordan's efforts in

search for a just and durable peace in the region and said that the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights was the central core of the Kingdom's policy. He said that Jordan remained committed to seeking a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, and preserving the historic, cultural, economic and political ties that bind the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

The Crown Prince said that Jordan's approach to the Middle East problem was aimed at blocking the status quo of no-peace no-war from becoming permanent Jordan, the Crown Prince said, has continuously sought to mobilise Arab and international opinion and has

followed a two-fold approach in its search for a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The first, he said, is Jordan's keeness in convening an international peace conference on the Middle East attended by all parties involved in the conflict, including the PLO, as well as the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

On the other hand, the Crown Prince added, Jordan sought to develop means and ways to support the steadfastness of the Arab people living under the Israeli occupation so that they remain in their homeland regardless of Israel's continued attempts to evict them from the territories.

The Crown Prince said that considerable progress had been made on both accounts pointing out that the Kingdom's call for an international conference had become an accepted forum on which the path to peace could proceed. Prince Hassan said that most countries had agreed to His Majesty King Hussein's call for convening the conference. The U.S., after having totally opposed the concept of an international conference, accepted the idea in principle provided that an agreement could be reached on the method of its work, jurisdiction and interlocutors, he said.

Mr. Junblatt, head of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) whose men hold the rugged mountains southeast of Beirut, is close to pro-Syrian Palestinians, some of whom man artillery

Planning ministers hail King

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Amman meeting of Arab ministers of planning concluded here late Tuesday and its participants sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday hailing his continuous efforts towards achieving pan-Arab unity and consolidating Arab economic integration. The cable also thanked the King for the hospitality the meeting participants received in Jordan.

During the gathering, planning officials in member states of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) discussed issues related to the conference's theme on "the role of Arab development integration in achieving pan-Arab economic unity."

The conference, in a final communiqué, said it adopted four principles aimed at achieving pan-Arab development integration and cooperation. These four centre around:

achieving a long-term development integration based on an organic cohesion of the infrastructure of pan-Arab production sectors; coordinating the various regional development plans through constant consultations between the council members; pushing forward the establishment of the Arab Common Market.

Battle for Maghdousheh rages on

MAGHDOSHEH (Agencies) — Palestinian fighters and Lebanese militiamen battled from house to house in this strategic hilltop town on Wednesday and Lebanese factional leader Walid Junblatt threw his hardy mountain fighters against the Palestinians in Lebanon's "camps war."

Pobce said at least 72 fighters were killed and 200 wounded in the last 24 hours of fighting for control of Maghdousheh, which overlooks Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon's southern port city of Sidon.

The new round of warfare between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Justice Minister Nabih Berry's Shi'ite Amal militia engulfed Beirut's refugee camps

Wednesday. Police reported that at least two people were killed and 11 wounded.

Amal fighters pounded the Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps with mortars and tank cannon and Palestinians blasted surrounding Shi'ite districts with rockets fired from mobile launchers.

Mr. Junblatt warned his fighters would intervene alongside with Amal against the Palestinians if they do not stick to their camps. He declared: "I hope the Palestinians do not oblige me to do it militarily."

"We are willing to fight on the ground along with Amal against the Palestinians if the battles

expand," said Mr. Junblatt.

Mr. Junblatt and pro-Syrian politicians in Lebanon have denounced last Monday's bloody takeover by Palestinians of Maghdousheh.

Police said a total of at least 130 people had been killed and 300 wounded in two days of fighting for control of the village. Palestinian sources said they had lost 13 fighters in the battle, while 85 civilians had been killed.

Mr. Junblatt, head of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) whose men hold the rugged mountains southeast of Beirut, is close to pro-Syrian Palestinians, some of whom man artillery

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No breakthrough yet in Damascus talks

By Lami K. Andoni in Damascus

SYRIAN-sponsored efforts for a ceasefire agreement between the Lebanese Amal militia and Palestinian fighters in Lebanon continued here for the third day on Wednesday with no sign of a breakthrough.

No official statements were issued or formal comments made on the progress of the talks by any of the parties involved, but sources close to the deliberations said that major differences persisted despite high-powered Iranian and Libyan mediation efforts as well as the roles played by the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the Lebanese Communist Party.

Party to end the bloodletting around Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

According to the sources, the main point of difference was on the nature of a proposed peace force to replace the Palestinian fighters entrenched in the strategic South Lebanese hilltop village of Maghdousheh, which was captured earlier this week by a combined force of Palestinian loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and factions opposed to Mr. Arafat. Heavy fighting continued in the mainly Christian hamlet on Wednesday.

According to the sources here, the Shi'ite Amal militia of Lebanese Justice Minister Nabih

Berri was insisting that its own forces regain control of Maghdousheh while the Palestinians were demanding that they would evacuate the village only to the Popular Liberation Army (PLA) of Mustafa Sada or to the mostly Druze PSP. The PLA had acted as a buffer force between Amal and the Palestinians before the PLO fighters broke out of their South Lebanon camps and overran Amal-held positions, including Maghdousheh.

The sources said other points of differences in the Damascus talks covered preconditions put forward by both sides before

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Israel admits brokering U.S.-Iran arms deal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Wednesday rejected demands for an inquiry to investigate Israel's role in American arms supplies to Iran as opposition parties assailed the government after it admitted that it had brokered the arms sales.

The acknowledgement of Israel's role came in a statement issued after three hours of late night emergency talks between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Mr. Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"The government of Israel confirms that it helped transfer defensive arms and spare parts from the United States to Iran upon the request of the United States," the statement said.

It said payments were made directly to a Swiss bank account by an Iranian representative and did not pass through Israeli hands.

"Israel was surprised to learn that supposedly a portion of these funds were transferred to the

(Nicaraguan rebel) contras. If such a transaction took place, it had nothing to do with Israel and the government of Israel had no knowledge of it," it said.

Responding to an on-confidence motion in the Knesset (parliament), Mr. Peres — who was prime minister at the time of the arms deal — said Israel's motives were "humanitarian" and it did not act for gain or weakened its stance on terrorism.

He stressed that the central consideration had been Israel's desire to help President Reagan obtain the release of American hostages held by Iranian-backed groups in Lebanon.

Mr. Peres did not disclose details about how the operation began or how much weaponry was involved. But he said he, Mr. Shamir and Mr. Rabin acted on their own.

Mr. Peres rejected demands for an inquiry to investigate Israel's role in the arms transfer and to set guidelines for future arms deals.

Gorbachev meets Gandhi

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev resumed talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Wednesday as baton-wielding Indian police broke up street protests in the capital against the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

The two leaders held their second session on bilateral and international issues after Mr. Gorbachev paid homage at monuments to Mahandas K. Gandhi, the pacifist father of Indian independence, and former prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

Shortly before they met at the presidential palace, more than 150 Afghan refugees were dispersed by police as they staged a 30-minute anti-Gorbachev protest in New Delhi's old quarter

some five kilometres away.

Fifteen members of the opposition Janata Party were arrested outside the Soviet embassy as they tried to demonstrate against the intervention by 115,000 Soviet troops.

Just after Mr. Gorbachev's arrival on Tuesday, police detained 55 Afghan refugees who tried to hold a protest demonstration along the Soviet's route into New Delhi.

Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Gandhi spent four hours discussing bilateral relations, East-West disarmament and regional South Asian questions on Tuesday, according to an Indian spokesman.

No further details have been made public.

W. Berlin court sentences 2 defendants in bomb case

WEST BERLIN (Agencies) — A West Berlin court on Wednesday jailed two Arabs for bombing an Arab-German friendship society and upheld accusations that the bomb was supplied by the Syrian embassy in East Berlin.

There was no immediate indication whether the West German government saw enough evidence to take diplomatic steps against Syria. Britain severed ties with Syria last month after a London trial involving the brother of one of the defendants implicated Damascus.

Presiding Judge Hans-Joachim Heinze, summing up the four-day trial, said the only evidence for official Syrian involvement in the bombing came in pre-trial confessions by defendants Ahmad Hasi and Farouk Saleh.

"But the court has no reason to doubt this when other details of their accounts have been confirmed in the course of proceedings. The court must therefore consider the accusations as credible," he said.

Syria denies the charges of involvement. The Syrian ambassador to West Berlin suggested in an interview on Tuesday that Israel's Mossad secret service was behind it.

Judge Heinze said Hasi, 35, and Saleh, 39, were working under the orders of Hasi's brother, Nazar Hindawi, who was jailed for 45 years in London for allegedly trying to smuggle a bomb aboard an Israeli airliner.

Judge Heinze sentenced Hasi to 14 years jail and Saleh to 13 years. The sentences were those demanded by the prosecution on Monday.

Hasi, aided by Saleh, laid the bomb outside a German-Arab society three times without success before it finally exploded on March 29, injuring seven people.

A West Berlin court issued an arrest warrant for Syrian national Haytham Saad, who was named in both the London and West Berlin trial as a Syrian secret service contact man.

'Soviets still seeking accord'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union's chief arms negotiator, Viktor Karpov, said Wednesday Moscow still sought an early disarmament agreement with the Reagan administration despite the present crisis of confidence in Washington.

At the same time he indicated that the Kremlin was ready for detailed discussions with the United States on what research would be acceptable for the American "Star Wars" project within an overall package.

Mr. Karpov told a news conference that his instructions from the Kremlin leadership were to reach an accord with the U.S. on nuclear and space weaponry. Mr. Karpov, who heads the Soviet team at disarmament talks in Geneva, was speaking at a news conference called to discuss "Star Wars".

Over the past few days there have been indications from some Soviet commentators that the Kremlin was moving to the conclusion that there was little point in dealing further with President Ronald Reagan.

Last Friday, Georgy Arbatov, an adviser on the U.S. to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, wrote in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda that Mr. Reagan had changed position so often recently that it was difficult to trust his word.

Other commentators have suggested that the disarray in the Reagan administration over arms supplies to Iran and confusion in Washington over disarmament goals made any serious discussions pointless until a new president was elected in two years time.

UAE sees 'imminent dangers' after Abu Dhabi oil rig attack

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) warned Wednesday of imminent dangers in the Gulf, after unidentified planes attacked one of its offshore oil platforms, killing at least five workers and wounding 26.

A statement issued after an emergency cabinet session said Tuesday's attack on the Abu Dhabi offshore field would "aggravate imminent dangers in the region and expose the interests and security of peace-loving states to danger."

The UAE "reserved the right to take suitable measures to protect its security, stability and sovereignty," it said.

The statement, carried by the Emirates News Agency WAM, did not say who was responsible for the attack, the most serious to affect a non-combatant Gulf country since the Iran-Iraq war broke out more than six years ago.

Iran and Iraq each accused the other of the raid, which shut down the field.

The oilfield, bordering Iranian waters 160 kilometres north west

of Abu Dhabi, was also attacked last month by what salvage experts said were Iraqi planes that mistook it for Iran's nearby Sassan field.

Hospital sources said two more wounded rig workers — a Briton and an Indian — arrived at Mafraq Hospital here Wednesday, bringing the total number of injured to 26.

Two Frenchmen, two Indians and a Pakistani were confirmed dead Tuesday, while two or three other workers were still missing.

Several of 10 men reported missing Tuesday night had been found among the wounded or had already flown back to their countries, the sources said.

Oil industry sources added that there was major damage to an oil production platform and it would be some time before pumping

could be resumed.

The field had been producing 30,000-60,000 barrels per day (bpd) out of the UAE's total production of 1.15 million bpd.

The UAE continued consultations Wednesday with its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

UAE newspapers urged a firm response. "The aggression committed against our country yesterday should not pass without taking the preparations and steps needed to prevent its repetition," the Sharjah daily Al Khaleej said.

The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi emirate, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zaid, who is also deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces, discussed the incident Wednesday by telephone with the Emir of Bahrain and Qatar's Crown Prince.

On Thursday night he talked with Arab leaders including Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, King Hussein and North Yemeni

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, official sources said.

Meanwhile Iraq's long-range raid on an Iranian oil terminal at the mouth of the Gulf showed Baghdad's ability to hit targets anywhere in the waterway and disrupt Tehran's oil exports, regional shipping sources said Wednesday.

They said Tuesday's air attack on the makeshift terminal off Larak Island, a round-trip of some 2,500 kilometres, also demonstrated that most of mainland Iran was within range of Iraqi jets.

The sources said the raid, which set three tankers ablaze, was probably launched with French-made Mirage F1C multi-mission attack planes refuelled in flight by converted Soviet-built AN-12 Cnb transports.

"The attack represents a serious escalation of the Gulf war and could prove to be a serious blow to Iranian oil exports," one source said.

Crowe: military not informed on Iran deal

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan neither informed nor consulted his highest-ranking military advisers about his decision to ship arms secretly to Iran, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has said.

Adm. William Crowe, who chairs the grouping of the chiefs of the four U.S. military services, testified on the lack of a high-level U.S. military role in the controversial operation at a congressional hearing.

Adm. Crowe gave his testimony unaware that, at about the same time, President Reagan was announcing that National Security Adviser John Poindexter, an architect of the Iran operation, had resigned and Poindexter's aide Oliver North had been fired.

In response to questions, Adm. Crowe said it was only by chance that he had first learned about the secret U.S. effort to sweeten relations with militantly anti-American Iran by sending arms to Tehran earlier this year.

Asked if it were true he was never officially informed of the initiative by the White House or the National Security Council (NSC), the Poindexter-led organisation that conceived and ran the Iran affair, the admiral replied, "Yes, sir."

"And your advice was never sought?"

"Not on this matter," he said.

Adm. Crowe said the chiefs had been consulted in depth on such earlier international operations as last April's air raid on Libya and the 1983 interception of a jetliner carrying the hijackers of the Achille Lauro cruise ship over the Mediterranean.

But he suggested the exclusion of the joint chiefs from the Iran operation might not have been a bad idea, given the covert nature of the operation.

Congressman Ike Skelton, an opposition Democrat, expressed outrage that the military chiefs "had to find this out by chance."

"Not only should you have known about it, your advice should have been sought," Mr. Skelton said.

Mr. Reagan has said he authorised the NSC last January to undertake a super-secret initiative to improve relations with so-called "moderates" in Iran.

Bahrain-S. Arabia causeway opened

By Dina Matar Rauer

BAHRAIN — The leaders of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain Wednesday opened a billion-dollar causeway linking the two countries with what a newspaper called "Bahrain's bridge to the future."

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain's Emir, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, formally inaugurated the 25 kilometre causeway on a man-made island midway between their two countries. Sheikh Isa then named it the "King Fahd Causeway."

The Saudi monarch flew to this tiny offshore island nation Tuesday for his first official visit to another Arab country since succeeding to the throne in 1982.

Officials expect the four-lane causeway will further strengthen

close political, economic and military ties between the two countries.

Both are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which also includes Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman.

Bahrain's English-language Gulf Daily News commented: "The causeway is the most tangible feature of brotherly relations... It is Bahrain's bridge to the future."

The Saudi-funded causeway, one of the world's longest, will open to the public on Saturday for 10 hours daily.

Schools and colleges in Bahrain closed Wednesday for the inauguration, and the island took on a festive atmosphere adorned with flags, colourful arches and portraits of the two leaders.

Diplomats in the region said the causeway, built by the Dutch firm Ballast Nedam, would enhance military ties between the two states and help safeguard both Bahrain and Saudi Arabia's rich oil producing eastern provinces.

Work on the causeway began in 1981 shortly after the formation of the GCC amid concern over Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and the start of the Gulf war in September 1980.

Officials said the link would primarily benefit trade and tourism, with an influx of visitors expected by Bahrain, which enjoys a more relaxed lifestyle than Saudi Arabia.

It should also boost investment opportunities on the island, an important regional banking and financial centre.

Iran sought over \$9b in arms from West

WASHINGTON — During its six-year war with Iraq, Iran has sought more than \$9 billion in arms from America's allies and enemies alike, according to a high-ranking Reagan administration official.

Other officials and independent arms analysts say that while North Korea and China are Iran's most important arms suppliers, Western countries provide about 20 per cent of the Tehran government's purchases.

These sources contend that recent disclosures of American arms shipments to Iran through Israel will make it impossible for the administration to stem the flow of arms to Iran by allies of the United States.

"We seem to have opened the floodgates for our allies to sell arms to Iran," an administration official said. "I have the sense

countries will be rushing to Tehran to make offers and clinch deals."

In a hearing on Nov. 24 before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said that North Korea was Iran's primary arms supplier and that China and Eastern Europe also supplied weapons. He said he was unable to confirm whether France and Portugal had sent weapons to Iran.

From 1979 to 1983, the only years for which reliable American intelligence figures are available, Iran spent \$2.8 billion on major arms purchases from the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain, West Germany, Italy, China, Romania and Poland, and \$2.6 billion in arms through other nations and indirect sources, intelligence analysts concede this

is a partial list.

From time to time, the Italian authorities have allowed spare parts for Hawk missiles and for helicopters to reach Iran, the official added. Iran has also received transports and small boats from Japan; tanks and trucks from India; armoured cars, rocket launchers and large amounts of hand grenades from Brazil; artillery and ammunition from South Africa; Fokker aircraft and military electronics equipment from the Netherlands; Cheftan tank parts from Britain, and F-4 and F-5 parts, overcoats and uniforms from South Korea.

Switzerland has operated either as a third-party broker or a direct supplier of parts for European-made weapons, according to arms experts.

— The New York Times.

Buckley reportedly was CIA chief in Beirut

By Bob Woodward and Charles R. Babcock

WASHINGTON — For the Reagan administration and especially the Central Intelligence Agency, Iran and the Muslim extremists it supports in the Middle East suddenly took on a new urgency on March 16, 1984, when a man named William Buckley — described at the time as a political officer in the U.S. embassy in Lebanon — was snatched off the streets of Beirut by a group calling itself Islamic Jihad.

As his captors have since

charged, Buckley was the chief of the CIA's Beirut station, U.S. sources have confirmed. He was one of the CIA's leading experts on terrorism.

For at least a year, the CIA undertook extraordinary measures, spending what one source called a "small fortune" on informants, intercepting communications and enhancing satellite photographs in hopes of determining where Buckley and other U.S. hostages might be held.

The effort failed. After torture and a long period of medical neglect, Buckley died in Beirut, apparently in June 1985. His captors first declared him dead

later in 1985. In a statement released in Beirut earlier this month, they reiterated that Buckley had been "executed" after having "confessed" to working for the CIA.

None of the remaining American hostages has any connections — direct or indirect — to the CIA or any other intelligence agency, according to authoritative U.S. government sources and colleagues of the hostages. Also, well-placed sources say those hostages have received better treatment from their captors, including competent medical care, since Buckley's death — The Washington Post.

Carrington: NATO may act in Gulf

AMMAN (AP) — NATO Secretary-General Lord Carrington was quoted on Wednesday as saying that closure of the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf, could prompt intervention by members of the Western alliance.

"If we as an alliance won't take any steps... every state could separately take such measures, and will do that," Lord Carrington was quoted as telling the daily Ad Dustour newspaper.

About 20 per cent of the non-communist world's oil flows through the narrow strait, where the Gulf opens into the Indian Ocean.

The Arabic-language newspaper said the interview with the British secretary-general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was conducted at NATO headquarters near Brussels.

Turkey to continue trial against Baladi, drops case on Ammarin

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish court decided on Wednesday to proceed with the trial of a Syrian diplomat accused of the murder of a Jordanian diplomat after it dropped charges against a translator at the Jordanian embassy in Ankara.

Mohammad Darwiche Baladi, second secretary and consul at the Syrian embassy, left Turkey last Thursday when he was indicted with eight other people for the killing of Jordanian Embassy First Secretary Ziad Al Sari.

Presiding Judge Ekrem Celik, reading the court's decision, said he should be tried "because of sound evidence against him."

The court on Tuesday dropped the case against one of the defendants, Jordanian embassy translator Adnan Musa Suleiman Ammarin, on grounds of diplomatic immunity.

It said Wednesday a formal arrest warrant should be issued for Mr. Baladi and renewed its request asking the Foreign Ministry to say whether he had diplomatic immunity.

A senior ministry official told

Reuters the first request had not been answered because Mr. Baladi had been withdrawn by his country and no state would return a diplomat for a trial.

Defence lawyer Veli Devcioglu described the indictment as a badly written scenario. He said it included no firm evidence against the defendants "except confessions which are known to have been taken under torture."

He asked the court to call the Ankara representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Abu Firas, as a witness.

In an interview with the weekly magazine Nokta two weeks ago, Abu Firas accused police of torturing Palestinian students taken in for questioning in the case.

He said a Jordanian student, Rifai Shaban, had told him how police had fabricated the case against the defendants.

Mr. Devcioglu said Shaban visited him to say that four accused Palestinian students among the defendants were innocent.

Demjanjuk collapses during trial

TEL AVIV (AP) — John Demjanjuk, a retired U.S. auto worker, collapsed crying and shaking Wednesday at the start of his trial on charges of committing Nazi atrocities during World War II.

The first session of the history-making trial ended after less than one hour, in which the 26-page indictment was read accusing Demjanjuk of Nazi war crimes, crimes against Jews and crimes against humanity. Under Israeli law, Demjanjuk could face a maximum death sentence.

Demjanjuk, speaking in his native Ukrainian tongue, entered a not guilty plea, Israel Radio said. It said Demjanjuk told the three-judge panel he was not "Ivan the Terrible," the feared guard of the Treblinka death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

The court adjourned and scheduled the next session for Jan. 19 to give the defence additional time to prepare its case.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 — Koran
18:30 — Tom Sawyer
18:45 — Local talent show
19:00 — Scientific programme (Arabic)
19:15 — Run Away Island
19:30 — Documentary on Agriculture
19:45 — Teaching French
20:00 — Contents programme
20:15 — News programme
20:30 — Programme review and varieties
20:45 — News in Arabic
21:00 — Arabic series
21:15 — Arabic film
21:30 — News summary in Arabic
21:45 — Film continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 — Le printemps de Boulogne
18:15 — News in French
18:30 — French programme
18:45 — Sport Magazine
19:00 — News in Arabic
19:15 — Check it Out
19:30 — Falcon Crest
19:45 — News in English
20:00 — "Killer Fish"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.00 KHz, SW Tel. 774111-19

07:00 — Light Music
07:30 — News
08:00 — Morning Show
08:30 — News Summary
09:00 — Morning Show
09:30 — Pop Session
10:00 — News Summary
10:30 — The story of Mervyn
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12:00 — News Summary
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BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00 News

06:30 Classical Record Review
06:45 Reflections
06:50 Financial News
07:00 World News
07:30 24 Hours: News Summary
07:45 The World Today
08:00 News Summary
08:15 Nature
08:30 The Evening World
08:45 News Summary
09:00 24 Hours: News Summary
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VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz

05:00 News

05:30 News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Report
05:45 News, Answer to Listener's Questions, Science Reports, Sports
06:00 News at 30 minutes past the hour
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of contemporary art in the Federal Republic of Germany at the Petra Bank Gallery (until Nov. 29).

An art exhibition by Ayad Al Nimer at the French Cultural Centre (until Dec. 4).

An exhibition of paintings by Rula Shukhairy at the Royal Cultural Centre.

"Tangorising" — dance — at 4:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministry clarifies procedures for Gazans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs on Wednesday said it was certifying all documents issued by public departments and institutions in the occupied Gaza Strip and called on all Gazans to certify their documents from the charitable committee for supporting Gazans, before they submit them for processing at the ministry.

Toukan receives ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Ministry Secretary General Tayseer Toukan on Wednesday received the ambassadors of the Soviet Union, Switzerland, South Korea and the U.S. during separate meetings. Mr. Toukan and the four envoys discussed bilateral ties between Jordan and their respective countries and means of further strengthening them. Mr. Toukan also reviewed the current situation in the Middle East as well as issues of bilateral concern.

Foreign Ministry tries to contact families

AMMAN (Petra) — The Foreign Ministry's consular division has requested the families of Azzam Mohammad Ahmad and Mohammad Al Sayyed Ahmad, who are Jordanian citizens, living in Baghdad to call at the consular division.

JCO reviews projects in W. Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — The West Bank committee of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) board of directors on Wednesday reviewed projects for activating the cooperative movement as part of the development programme for the occupied West Bank. During its meeting, held under the chairmanship of JCO Director General Mervin Al Tal, the committee also approved an agreement for the purchase of olive oil concluded between the JCO and the federation of cooperative societies in the West Bank. Under the agreement, the price of one drum of olive oil for the consumer has been fixed at JD 21.

Reagan sets up panel

(Continued from page 1)

involved in terrorist acts. Mr. Meese said there was no need so far for a special prosecutor, such as those appointed to prosecute the Watergate scandal in President Nixon's administration.

He said a special prosecutor would have to be appointed only if possible involvement by high-level officials were found. Many remained sceptical. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a Democrat from New York who served in the Nixon administration, asked an interviewer rhetorically on Wednesday, "Do you really think this whole thing was run by one lieutenant colonel? How do you feel about the tooth fairy?"

Contra leader Adolfo Calero said in Miami his organisation had not received any of the funds described by Mr. Meese. Sen. Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat in line to be chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he believed it was too early to call for a special prosecutor.

But Mr. Nunn said in a television interview that it was crucial to determine whether Col. North and Adm. Poindexter spent taxpayers' money without higher approval because that might violate criminal law. Representative Peter Rodino, a New York Democrat, and Sen. Patrick Leahy called for appointment of a special prosecutor, as was done in the Watergate investigation, to check who had known what and when about the Iran affair.

At least five laws dealing with control of arms exports, anti-terrorism, congressional oversight and military aid to the contra were possibly violated, according to critics.

Mr. Meese said Wednesday he did not know how his investigation would take, but pledged "we'll be getting to the bottom by talking to everyone who may have had any involvement."

Mr. Meese refused to speculate on whether some of the arms profits may have found their way to Eugene Hasenfus, the American mercenary convicted of anti-government activity by Nicaragua after his plane carrying supplies to the contra was shot down.

Mr. Hasenfus has said he felt the supply operation was a U.S. government operation.

Queen Noor visits new premises of the Arab World Institute in Paris

Special from Paris

PARIS — Her Majesty Queen Noor, who is currently visiting Paris, on Wednesday called at the Arab World Institute (AWI) where she was briefed on the institute's activities and goals.

Queen Noor was greeted upon arrival at the AWI by Mrs. Jacques Chirac, wife of the French premier, and president of the institute Paul Carton.

Mr. Carton briefed the Queen on the institute's intended role of bridging the gap between the Arab and European cultures. The Queen also visited the AWI's new premises, currently under construction and which are expected to be operational in March 1987.

In his address, Mr. Carton welcomed Her Majesty to the institute and said the AWI has been designed to bridge the gap between the Arab and French cultures and to promote all fields of cooperation. He stressed that the French people have always had special concern for the Arab peoples and cultures dating back in the histories of both nations.

The Queen was accompanied on her visit to the institute by president of the Royal Society for Fine Arts Princess Wijdan Ali and wife of the Jordanian Armed Forces commander-in-chief Mrs. Nawzat Zaid Ibo Shaker.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez and an accompanying parliamentary delegation are also currently in Paris and they paid a visit to the institute to obtain first-hand information about the AWI's activities.

The institute, currently housed and operating from a temporary site leased from the French government in one of the quarters of Paris, will soon move to its new premises which are currently in the final stages of construction.

Constructed at a total cost of 370 million French francs (equivalent to approximately \$55 million), the new seven-storey building comprises multi-purpose facilities, an audio-visual centre and other equipment to disseminate Arab culture. The new premises includes also a museum to preserve Arab manuscripts, a library containing more than half-a-million books in the field of education.

Under a cultural agreement between the French government and the Arab countries, the French government contributed as much as 60 per cent of the total cost of the new building, which has been constructed on designs incorporating both modern architecture and the Islamic style.

A group of journalists recently had the chance to take first-hand knowledge about the institute's achievements and goals. Jordan has paid all its contribution towards the construction of the new premises. Information on the institute was made available during a recent trip to Paris organised by the

Amman-Marriott Hotel and British Airways.

During the trip, the journalists were briefed on the activities of the institute by its president Basem Al Jisr who made a detailed chronological review of the institute since its inception.

The idea for setting up the institute was initiated in the mid 70s but did not see the light until 1980. In that year, Dr. Jisr continued, the French government and most Arab leaderships arrived at an agreement to set up the institute and Paris was chosen to host the new cultural centre.

From that time on, the institute became involved in cultural work through the publishing books and other publications on the orient, as well as taking part in several art and cultural exhibitions in the French capital.

Today, the AWI has been active in introducing the Arab culture to more and more French people, the culture of the largest ethnic group in France which exceeds 2,500,000 immigrants from every place in the Arab World.

Work on the institute's new premises is expected to be completed by the end of 1987.

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Not a pretty sight

"CREDIBILITY" is a much bandied term nowadays. Its latest popularity stems from the recent revelations of the Reagan administration's covert arms deals with Iran and the diverting of the money earned to sponsor the contras in Nicaragua. Charges abound that this latest episode undermines U.S. "credibility." But, for all the times that the United States has supposedly lost "credibility," it would have entered the "negative" credibility scale long ago.

Let us examine credibility for a moment. The dictionary gives as the first definition: "the quality or power of inspiring belief." Now, how has American "credibility" been undermined? First of all, the Reagan administration has been waging a "war" against terrorism since it took office. It has been a priority of this administration and was the main justification for bombing Libya. But, there is ample evidence to suggest that not only Libya, but also Iran is an active supporter of "terrorism." Of course, one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter, and no doubt the same situation prevails in the U.S.-Libya and U.S.-Iran equations.

In addition, the Reagan administration has taken a "neutral" stance on the Iran-Iraq war. It has repeatedly called for an end to the fighting and publicly instituted an arms embargo against Iran. Trials were even beginning to be held for arms dealers who had sold arms to Iran, when the whole scandal broke. Here again, the Reagan administration has said one thing and is doing exactly the opposite. The U.S. government's "power to inspire belief" is slowly slipping away.

A further fact has now come to light, however. The money the U.S. received from the arms sales has been channelled to a special bank account for the contras, according to Attorney General Edwin Meese. Thus, the Reagan administration has been caught by-passing Congress in its attempt to destabilise the Nicaraguan government. Of course, this money is going to fund "freedom fighters," not "terrorists." Again, we are caught in the dilemma of terminology. It is difficult for a somewhat detached observer of such things to see the distinction. Killing civilians, planting bombs, and kidnapping are all right in this case, because they are "our guys," but inhuman and barbaric when "their people" employ such means. Got it straight now? Not us.

Be that as it may, support for the contras behind the backs of the American Congress and people further undermines the Reagan administration's "power to inspire belief." President Reagan, however, pleads ignorance to this part of the affair. Whether ignorant or guilty, President Reagan's power to inspire belief is rapidly disappearing.

If we may employ the term "credibility" for the moment, it does appear that the Reagan administration's credibility, its power to inspire belief has been strained, if not destroyed, among Congress, the American people, its European allies, and last but not least, the Arab World. This is not to overlook the dubious practices of others involved in the affairs — Israel's involvement as middle man, and Iran's role itself, despite its nauseatingly common attacks against the American "Satan." But, the focus here is the American government.

What we are left with is not a pretty sight. The Reagan administration has said one thing and done another; it has disregarded Congress, deceived the American people, and embarrassed its allies. Perhaps, rather than saying that the Reagan administration has undermined its credibility, we can say that it has enhanced its power to inspire disbelief.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israeli terrorism in Jerusalem

TEN days have elapsed since the beginning of Jewish terrorist acts in Jerusalem, which are being perpetrated by the Kahane gangs in Arab Jerusalem. Under the watchful eyes of the occupying authorities which have stood still before the ongoing vandalism and hooliganism in the streets of the city. The Kahane gangs went in the extent of raising placards reading "death for the Arabs" in the city of peace. It is obvious that these acts of terrorism are nothing but a reflection of Israel's expansionist policies and compatible with Yitzhak Shamir's tendency for terrorism. The appalling situation in the occupied city of Jerusalem warranted Tuesday's special conference by the city's Mufti Sheikh Sa'ad Al Deen Al Alami who called on the diplomatic corps in the Jewish state to urge their governments to send U.N. troops to the holy city to protect the Arab inhabitants and their holy shrines. In light of the ongoing unrest in Jerusalem, the world's public opinion can deduce that the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories has rendered the occupied territories terrorist-stricken, vandalised and strike-ridden. The current appalling situation in Jerusalem prompts the need to liberate the city from the Israeli occupation in order to restore peace, stability and security which the city had enjoyed under Arab rule. Those interested in countering terrorism should first unroot the Nazist-Israeli terrorism in the holy land. As an initial step towards solving the Israeli aggression all peace-loving nations should work towards convening an international peace conference on the Middle East as has always been called for by Jordan.

Al Dustour: U.S. fuels Gulf war

THE arms deal between the U.S. and Iran reveals its consequences on the Gulf region day after day. For the middle East, Tuesday at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) oil terminal at Abu Bakr, is nothing but a consequence of the U.S. indulgence in the Iran-Iraq war, a fact which threatens a spill over of the war to other Gulf states. Subsequently, Tehran's leaders escalated their aggression on Iraq instead of heeding international calls for peace. And the recent revelations of secret U.S. and Israeli arms supplies to Iran no doubt represent a tool for Iran's leaders to further escalate the war and to broaden the scope of the conflict in other Gulf states. Hence, we look upon the recent escalation of war by Iran as a natural outcome of the U.S. policy of "appeasement" towards a country which for long has been regarded by the U.S. public opinion as a terrorist foothold. Therefore, while we are all confident in the night of the Iraqi soldiers in the face of Iranian aggression, we call on the U.S. to save its eroding credibility in the region.

Sawt Al Shaab: Where does it end?

WHEN the Watergate scandal hit President Nixon's White House in the 70's, the U.S. president then, albeit he was very outspoken and renowned lawyer, could not stand against the tidal wave of Watergate. For that matter, Nixon alone paid for the Watergate scandal. The fact that only former President Nixon became the scapegoat for the Watergate scandal seems to have promoted Mr. Reagan to sacrifice some members of his entourage to escape the blame. That is why Reagan's security advisor John Poindexter was dismissed. Poindexter's head, according to analysts, was only a sacrifice for the first head in the White House. Other analysts go beyond that to say that America, through its most important policy-makers, has decided not to repeat the dooms of Watergate. Poindexter must have packed his clothes a week ago. That day he must have been informed about the decision of the masterminds of U.S. policy, and about America's national interest as well as the need not to shake the pillars of the White House. The Reagan administration's main concern is to preserve the dignity of the country's leadership before the U.S. public. But nevertheless, the American people who are always in search for a heroic leader, turn for vengeance. If its leaders fail to fulfil their duty, Nixon could not evade the scandal but Reagan seems to have absorbed most of the whirlpool which nearly rolled his head off the U.S. leadership. But is this the end of the affair?

VIEW FROM AMERICA

U.S. 'secret diplomacy' fits its selective understanding of terrorism

SAN FRANCISCO — The revelations about secret U.S. dealings with Iran have come at a time Congress is in recess. There has been anger, but no hearings. There may never be hearings, especially with the Democrats now in control of the Senate and the House.

While both parties are pro-Israel, the Democrats are even more so. The fact that Israel was involved in the sending of U.S. arms to Iran has served to dampen the furor. Unfortunately the dominant sentiment in Washington is that "if it helps Israel, it has to be OK."

But the more one looks at all this "secret diplomacy," the more complicated it becomes. An Israeli recently asserted: "we support Amal in Lebanon." Amal and PLO forces have been fighting each other around Sidon and the Rashidkay camp in southern Lebanon. Amal is Shi'ite. Iran is Shi'ite. The PLO is partially headquartered in Baghdad. Therefore, seen from a distance, it seems as if a link goes from Israel to Iran.

True or not, such a link undoubtedly pleases many in Washington. Despite all the talk about terrorism, Washington's understanding of "terrorism" is very, very selective. Nothing Israel could ever... God forbid!... be considered terrorism. Virtually everything the PLO does is almost by definition terrorism. Qadhafi has been the most convenient "terrorist," and punching at him was safe. As to Iran, it was for a while the most horrendous of all terrorist states. Of late, Washington has said little about Iranian terrorism. When the Hindawi trial in London led to accusations of Syrian "terrorism,"

Washington at first came up with ambiguous responses. But then, when the secret dealings with Iran were revealed, it quickly decided to join the Europeans and impose some sanctions which, if looked at closely, amounted to very little.

The question generally is one of what in the end Washington's policy is. A more pressing one for the Arab people is what such a policy will mean for the Arabs and specifically for the Palestinians.

There are many observers of the Middle Eastern scene with whom I have recently talked who are convinced that Washington has finally decided to sacrifice the Palestinians in its quest for "stability" in the Middle East. If in the past there was at least ritualistic reference to the need for some settlement of the Palestinian issue, now there is none. In fact, Washington says almost nothing about the Middle East. Much of what has been said is the little that has been said in regard to revelations about the covert diplomacy.

References to the PLO have virtually vanished from the American press. I have seen few articles on the West Bank except in the "alternative" press. Even in the Egyptian papers which I see, references to the Palestinians seem to me to have gone down. The Egyptians, of course, have their own dire economic problems to worry about.

Does Washington now feel, perhaps, that if they can improve relations with Iran, then they can help bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end? And if that war should end, do they believe that there is then hope for settling the Lebanon crisis? And then finally, perhaps many

years from now, they can leisurely begin to consider the Palestinian issue?

One issue concerning Palestinians did get a slight bit of attention in the American press: the encounter between some 31 PLO members and some 40 Israelis in Bucharest. In the American press, the PLO connection was played down. And, aside from the denunciations of the contacts by Israeli leaders and the peculiar ways the two delegations talked to each other in Bucharest, little else was reported in this country's media.

It seems hard to imagine that such direct contacts will get very far. One friend of mine noted that in Israel the PLO has been "demonised" so that no way exists, he felt, for direct dealings between the PLO and Israel. Maybe that is also Washington's conclusion. The current Israeli government is very shaky, and Washington knows full well how quickly the Zionist propaganda machine can be turned on whenever it suits them. And so it has gone back to trying some larger strategies that can deal with Iran or the Afghanistan issue or even the oil price issue (there have been reports in U.S. papers as to how the Saudis and the Iranians have been working together in OPEC to raise oil prices).

Yet even here in America we hear again and again of the sufferings of the Palestinians in Gaza and on the West Bank. Injustice continues to be practised against Palestinians, and America remains silent. Even Europe has become silent.

U.S. foreign policy shake-up spotlights chronic turmoil at top

By Christopher Hanson

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The resignation of Admiral John Poindexter as national security adviser points up a chronic problem for President Reagan — finding the right person to fill that top White House foreign policy job.

Word of Poindexter's resignation on Tuesday accompanied official disclosure that money from secret arms sales to Iran had been improperly diverted — apparently by one of his top aides — to U.S.-backed anti-government rebels in Nicaragua and that Poindexter was aware of this manoeuvre.

The admiral became the fourth man to quit the key national security adviser job since Reagan took office in 1981.

Even some administration officials admit this game of musical chairs, in a job made both powerful and glamorous by such previous occupants as Henry Kissinger, has rocked the continuity of U.S. foreign policy.

Each of Reagan's four appointees has been embroiled in controversy.

Critics of the Reagan administration say none of them — conservative academic Richard Allen, former California judge William Clark, retired Marine Lt.-Gen. Robert McFarlane and Poindexter — had the stature or qualifications needed for the job.

They were relatively obscure men and did not stand up well when compared with some who had held the post. Their predecessors included Kissinger, who served President Nixon and became a key architect of détente with Moscow, Gen. Brent Scowcroft, who served President Ford with skill and Soviet expert Zbigniew Brzezinski, who held the

post under President Carter.

"Not one of Mr. Reagan's NSC advisers ever achieved a position of generally recognised experience and esteem in foreign policy," columnist Joseph Harsch wrote recently in the Christian Science Monitor.

"Mr. Reagan is unique in depending in his foreign policy decisions on amateurs in foreign policy."

Poindexter graduated at the top of his Annapolis naval academy class but was no expert on foreign policy when he joined the National Security Council staff in 1981.

His last job in the navy had been as head of the service's training and education programmes.

Poindexter was not widely known outside the White House when he was elevated to national security adviser and remained a shadowy figure whose expertise was at times questioned.

"Although the... admiral is not known for published works of strategy, he is reputed to be one of the most skilful note-takers in the Reagan administration," New York Times columnist William Safire wrote acerbically last year.

Poindexter recently drew fire from Democrats and other critics, who accused him of backing plans to sow "disinformation" in the news media to destabilise Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and of helping engineer the hotly

disputed plan to sell arms to Iran in a bid for better ties.

That Iran policy has been branded a mistake by Republicans and Democrats and its disclosure has created the most serious political crisis Reagan has faced as president.

The charges that Poindexter knew of an improper operation to fund the contras through Iran arms sales — at a time when Congress had suspended official funding — are the most serious accusations made against a national security adviser since Reagan took office.

But his three predecessors under Reagan have drawn their share of criticism.

Robert McFarlane, who held the post before Poindexter and served as a covert Reagan emissary to Iran after leaving government, was accused by some foreign analysts of being a weak adviser who did little to shape policy.

They said his experience as a marine officer and Senate staff aide were inadequate to prepare him for the complexities of foreign policy decision-making.

According to some administration officials, McFarlane left office because he was feuding with White House chief of staff Donald Regan and had irked administration hard-liners by backing State Department proposals for nuclear

arms control compromises. The White House denied this.

McFarlane's predecessor William Clark, a long-time friend of Reagan's and former California judge, served briefly as deputy secretary of state.

His foreign policy qualifications were very limited when he came to the White House in early 1982.

At Senate confirmation hearings, he revealed his ignorance of the outside world by failing to identify the prime ministers of India and Zimbabwe and appearing not to know that Korea was divided into a Communist North and capitalist South.

When Clark left the post to become interior secretary in October 1983, White House officials said he had grown tired of constant foreign policy hickering among administration factions.

Clark had replaced Richard Allen, a conservative hard-line scholar who had feuded practically from his first day at the post with then-Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Allen came under a cloud after he was accused by anonymous White House officials of improperly accepting gifts including some Japanese wrist watches. He was cleared of those charges but resigned in early 1982.

Fallout from the Iran revelations has led congressional critics to question the role of the NSC in foreign policy.

Sen. Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat who is due to assume chairmanship of the armed services committee, said the NSC appeared to be operating with no oversight and required close scrutiny.

Reagan said on Wednesday, he had appointed a commission to examine the proper role of the NSC and the national security adviser in making foreign policy.



Israel's response to scandals — silence and censorship

By Paul Taylor

Reuter

TEL AVIV — The saga of U.S.-backed Israeli arms sales to Iran is only the latest in a series of scandals this year to which Israeli authorities have responded with silence, censorship, and what Israeli journalists describe as misleading statements and, on occasion, lies.

Israelis have had a year of snowballing scandals in which a reluctant government has gradually been forced by press revelations to admit wrongdoing and in some cases telling untruths.

"The first reaction is to ignore, the second is to deny the unpleasant involvement. Then the devilish dance begins," the evening newspaper Maariv's editor Ido Dissenchik said in an editorial Wednesday.

"Credibility is crumbling. There is a difference between silence and deception in the name of national security interests," he said.

It began with the affair of U.S. navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard, caught spying for Israel in Washington. The government first denied any involvement and later sought to play down the case as the misdeeds of a "rogue" intelligence unit.

The U.S. Justice Department complained that Israel was less than forthcoming in the investigation, which uncovered a spy ring that included a senior Israeli agent and an air force colonel who has since been promoted.

Press reporting of the Pollard affair was hampered by Israeli military censors, empowered to prevent publication of news reports on broadly-defined areas

involving national security.

Then there was the Shin Bet affair — a prolonged cover-up of the killing by agents of Israel's internal security service of two captured Palestinian bus hijackers in 1984.

Here, too, censorship was used to try to prevent disclosure of the fact that the hijackers were captured alive and subsequently beaten to death, and that Shin Bet lied to two commissions of inquiry.

Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom was eventually forced to resign in exchange for immunity from prosecution but the contradiction between his testimony that he acted with the authority and permission of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, and Shamir's denials, has never been resolved.

Next came the Vanunu affair. Israel imposed blanket censorship

to prevent foreign and domestic reporters from following up allegations to the London Sunday Times by nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu that Israel's Dimona nuclear reactor had been used for years to produce atom bombs.

The government continued to maintain that it had no information on Vanunu's whereabouts for several weeks after he had been secretly captured and brought back to Israel to stand trial.

The Israeli police headquarters issued a statement that Vanunu was not being held in any of its prisons at a time when reporters knew, but were barred from reporting, that he was being held by the army.

Israeli authorities still refuse to say how Vanunu was returned to Israel, despite requests for

information from the British government.

Now there is the Iran affair. When news of secret U.S. arms supplies to the Islamic republic of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini became known, Israel stayed silent and stonewalled all questions about its role.

Yitzhak Shamir told a foreign press luncheon last Thursday: "I can only say it is not our policy to sell arms to Iran." Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who was prime minister at the time of the shipments, made similar statements.

Shamir on Tuesday acknowledged there might have been "exceptions" to this general policy to help President Reagan in his hour of need.

But it was only after U.S. justice secretary Edwin Meese named Israel as the country which

brokered the arms deal that Shamir, after a midnight meeting with Peres and defence minister Yitzhak Rabin, admitted an Israeli role.

Contradictions between the American and Israeli versions of events remain to be explained.

There are also continuing suspicions, fuelled by reports from the United States, that Israeli arms supplies to Iran may have preceded and exceeded anything that was authorised by Washington.

Rabin stated categorically last week that Israel had never exported any U.S.-made equipment to anyone without Washington's specific authorisation.

That statement may now be tested by a U.S. Justice Department investigation.

George Shultz: A winner — with a warning — in Iran fallout

By William Scally

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State George Shultz emerged a winner on Nov. 25 from the debris of the Reagan administration's Iran policy, but he got an implied warning to fall into line backing the president.

Tuesday's bombshell disclosure that the covert supply of arms to Iran had been linked with possible illegal transfers of money to Nicaraguan rebels was seen as a vindication of the State Department's publicly voiced concerns about National Security Council (NSC) "operational activities."

President Reagan, announcing on Tuesday that the head of the NSC, Admiral John Poindexter, and a top aide had been relieved of their posts, said he would name a special board to review the role of the council staff in formulating and implementing administration foreign policy.

Shultz's spokesman Charles Redman, made clear that Shultz

was the victor, telling reporters the president intended that his Iran policy be implemented through "the normal channels" — under the direction of the secretary of state.

He said Shultz "wholeheartedly supports the president" who had "acted decisively."

Since the secret American contacts with Iran burst into the open some three weeks ago, Shultz had sought to distance himself from the policy, openly questioning its wisdom and saying he had only fragmentary knowledge of the operation.

His hands-off stance and implied criticism was reported to have angered White House aides and first lady Nancy Reagan, fuelling speculation Shultz might be forced out.

But Reagan's close friend, Attorney General Edwin Meese, told a White House briefing on Tuesday that Shultz was staying, and added that his departure had never been considered.

"I know of no other resignations contemplated or

requested" beyond those of Poindexter and his aide, marine Lt.-Col. Oliver North, Meese said.

Without naming names, Meese told reporters at the White House: "I think every member of the administration owes it to the president to stand shoulder to shoulder with him."

All members of the cabinet, he said, had either to support the cabinet's policy decisions "or get out."

Redman's comment also on Tuesday was a clear indication that Shultz was back in the fold — and in the driver's seat.

Shultz is highly regarded among America's allies and is a key player in efforts to forge arms control agreements with the Soviet Union. There was wide consensus among Western diplomats that his departure would have seriously harmed the administration during its last two years.

But the White House reportedly was stunned on Monday when Shultz's deputy, John Whitehead, testifying before

a Congressional committee, publicly criticised the president's Iran policy and the use of the NSC for purposes other than merely advising the president.

"We at the State Department find it difficult to cope with NSC operational activities," Whitehead said. "We have concern, particularly when we don't know about them."

He called for a review of the way the NSC functioned, echoing what were believed to be the views of Shultz, who in recent weeks has been engaged in a tough bureaucratic battle to regain control of foreign policy.

Whitehead's testimony at one point directly contradicted Reagan's statement that after the United States supplied arms to Iran, Tehran had stopped its support for terrorism directed against the United States.

He said the president "may have been poorly advised" on the Iran affair and suggested that three former American hostages in Lebanon, whose release Reagan had linked with the arms

shipments, "might have been released anyhow."

Traditionally, State Department officials have backed

presidential policies in testimony to Congress, even when they have aroused opposition within the department.

LETTERS

Don't preach!

To the Editor:

I read with great interest Randa Habib's corner "Funky songs" in Jordan Times issue of Nov. 24, 1986, in which Ms. Habib criticises Jordan's TV and radio stations for indiscriminately broadcasting the songs they receive from abroad.

Ms. Habib makes one wonder whether the interest of our younger generation will be best protected by subjecting their music to the same one-track-minded, self-centred censorship that different types of information i.e. TV, video, radio, cinema and other media coverage already suffer.

Does Ms. Habib really understand the exact meaning of the anti-abortion song "Papa don't preach?"

Vickie Zeln,
Amman,
Jordan.

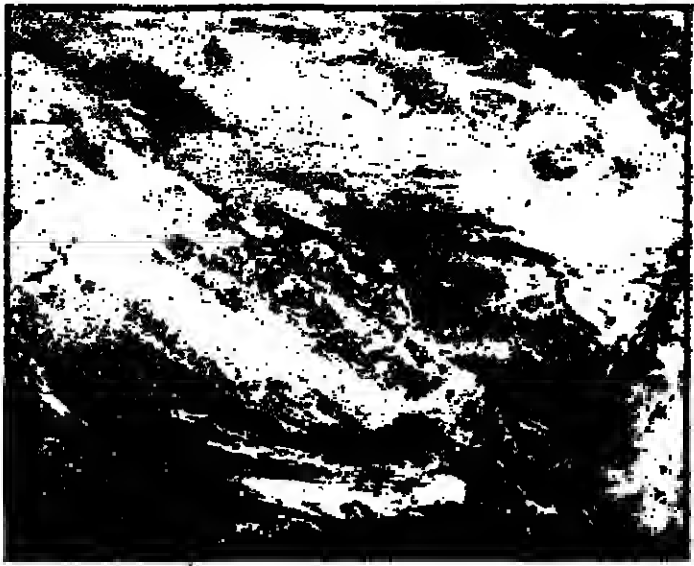
Shukairy bursts onto the art scene in a blaze of colour and intensity

By Mag Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In 1942, Piet Mondrian wrote: "The colours of nature cannot be reproduced on canvas. Instinctively, I felt that painting had to find a new way to express the beauty of nature." Mondrian was, of course, referring to his and his contemporaries' first attempts at total abstraction, but his words forty years later are still as pertinent as they were then. They are also particularly relevant to the work of Rula Shukairy, whose giant first solo exhibition is now on at the Royal Cultural Centre.

They are relevant not only because Shukairy captures the some of the magnificence of nature in glowing abstracts, but also because Shukairy instinctively feels this is the right way to express herself. Encouraged by her mentor and teacher — the internationally acclaimed artist, Fakhrelnissa Zeid — Shukairy, a new painter of only some three years experience with no academic background to draw upon, intuitively put colours onto canvas in a way that expressed her feelings for what she saw around her. Although at first this process, which came to her as naturally as breathing does to the rest of us, was slow and uncertain due to unfamiliarity with the media and technique, gradually as her confidence built up, the paintings came flooding out. It was in this quiet reserved person a dam had been broken and with it came the release of years of pent-up creative energy which before had found no outlet.

The exhibition includes nearly all of this outpouring from Shukairy's earliest attempts to her latest work, finished shortly before the exhibition opened. Although not chronologically displayed, it is interesting to trace the artist's development from the rather raw, unmixt colours of her initial pieces to the sophisticated and delicately placed shades of her more recent work. Her earlier work, despite the obvious lack of finesse and control that only comes with time and practice, nevertheless holds all the seeds of what was to come. Hidden within them was Shukairy's innate ability for creating the great and inspiring depths that characterise her later



Abstracts of natural landscapes and tumultuous skies — one of the paintings on display at the Royal Cultural Centre by Jordanian artist Rula Shukairy at the opening of her first solo exhibition on Tuesday (Petra photo).

work, along with her facility for making an abstract image work by good composition.

Nature at her wildest

The promise held within those early pieces comes to fruition in Shukairy's latest work, particularly those displayed at the entrance of the exhibition and on and around the central column. In these, Shukairy has caught nature at her wildest. Swirling holes touched with red pierce the canvas leading the eye into the depths of the cosmos. It is as if she thrust a spear through the sky, achieving the same effect as does the sun when it breaks through a gap in

ART REVIEW

the storm clouds sending through a solitary shaft of light that momentarily illuminates a small corner of the earth. In these pieces, mountains rise almost imperceptibly leaving behind corridors filled with rain, burnt orange rocks and valleys filled with blue, white in the sky clouds race with unseen and unfelt heavenly winds. These latter paintings are somehow the realisation of a universal image held deep within the

unconsciousness of us all, for they remind each of us of something different, stirring and arousing images and emotions long since forgotten.

Instincts

Instinct has played a large role in the art of Shukairy. Painting by intuition, and perhaps because she does so, her work arouses primordial feelings rooted within us all. Her talent was spotted by instinct, that of Princess Fakhrelnissa Zeid who saw in Shukairy something unique right from the beginning and finally it was that same instinct that hung the exhibition so well. Over a period of three hours, the Princess worked alone to marry all the diverse elements in Shukairy's work, so that together they formed, as if by magic, another huge piece of art. By carefully harmonising the colours and forms, the Princess brought out the best of each painting making plainly visible to everyone what she had seen all along — Shukairy's great potential and talent.

The exhibition runs until December 2nd.

RCC continues to screen cross section of international cinema with Italian week

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After Swedish, Spanish, American, Polish, and French film weeks, the Royal Cultural Centre continues its efforts to entertain moviegoers in Amman and to present a cross-section of international cinema. Italian films at the RCC will be screened to entertain the film-loving public for one week.

The films, brought by the Italian Embassy in Amman, consist of comedies and one drama produced in 1985 and 1986. One of the movies, however, is a black and white opera entitled "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" ("The Barber of Seville") which was made in 1946. This film, directed by Mario Costa, music by

Giacchino Rossini, and starring Tino Goggi and Nelly Corradi, will be screened on Dec. 2.

Comedies

The Italian Film Week opens on Nov. 29 with the comedy "Tutta Colpa del Paradiso" ("Blame it on Paradise"), released in 1985. It is directed by and stars Francesco Nuti and also stars the well-known Italian actress Ornella Muti.

"Romance," to be shown on Nov. 30, is another comedy and produced in 1986. It is directed by Massimo Mazzucco, and Walter Chiari and Luca Barbareschi are the main actors.

The third comedy on Dec. 1 is another 1985 production, entitled "Giovanni Senza Pensieri" ("Giovanni Without a Worries").

Eleonora Giorgi and Sergio Castellitto star in Marco Colli's film.

Italian sense of humour may also be seen the following evening in the comedy "La Messa e Finita" ("Mass is Over"), which was directed and acted by Nanni Moretti in 1985.

A love story

The final movie of the Italian Film Week is a drama "Storia D'amore" ("A Love Story") — a 1986 production, directed by Francesco Maselli, and acted by Valeria Golino and Livio Panzeri.

All of the films, except the opera, are subtitled in English, and all performances begin at 8 p.m.

Best wishes, happy birthday and seasons greetings from Jordan

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the first time in Jordan several local artists have got together and produced a large number of greeting cards to promote Jordanian art abroad.

Some of the cards are handmade and others are printed. The work is varied and different. Some cards have folkloric scenery from Jordan, some have wild, flowering plants from the country whilst others have traditional embroidery tucked inside the cards themselves. It is obvious that the cards are handmade and not factory made as small errors here and there can be noticed.

The cards, whose prices range from 100 fils to 800 fils, have messages of seasons and birthday greetings in both Arabic and English and others are blank for the sender to write their own message. Also, there are cards that open from the left and right sides or from below. In addition, some of the locally-made envelopes have designs.

Not only are these greeting cards done by professional artists, but also by children from the Haya Arts Centre, and from the Young Women's Muslim Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Society of the Friends of Liver Patients, and the



Drawing of a mosque by a child from the Haya Arts Centre made into a greetings card for all occasions.

Palestinian Arab Folklore Centre. The proceeds will go to both the professional artists, and to the societies and organisations.

Mrs. Samia Zarur organised the artists together and coordinated the process of production, promotion and sales.

Mrs. Zarur, who previously made greeting cards on her own and found it to be very successful, told the Jordan Times that it is important to make folkloric cards of this sort because "we should send an idea of our heritage to people abroad. Foreigners, especially in the West, expect to receive a different card from Jordan, not a card imported from where they are," she said.

She added that it was not very difficult to bring the artists together to make the cards and that she was pleased with the local printing. "They are quite advanced; the cards look clean, and colour separation is achieved very well," she continued.

The artists include D. Shamouni, S. Abu Shandi, J. Hussein, S. Zarur, M. Rifai, R. Lahham, T. Sayyed, J. Irikat, K. Qurhur, A. O'Neil, and Iraqi artist W. Orfali.

Mrs. Zarur hopes that the local artists participating in this experiment will receive enough encouragement to continue with this idea and to turn it into a tradition.

Randa Habib's Amman's parks

PARKS and gardens are as necessary to cities as are lungs to human beings. In Jordan, people have always realised the importance of greenery in their lives, and recently municipal authorities started a campaign of creating parks and planting trees. However the locations of some of these parks, do not appear to be so well-chosen. Take for example the garden situated on right hand of the road that leads from Wadi Sagra traffic lights to down town Amman. The park is built on the slope of a hill, in a triangle shape, and though relatively small, it extends right up to the pavement on the main road. So, people sit on the benches, on the slope of a hill, which must be terribly uncomfortable, breath the exhaust fumes of passing traffic and view nothing. Children, who need playing grounds, are better off not going to that park. First of all they can hardly stand straight on such sloping ground, and if they venture to play with a ball, children's most favourite sport, they risk their lives chasing the ball down a road that serves as young Ammanites' speed track.

The newly inaugurated park, recently built near the Sports City No. 5, is a very good example of how parks should be: wide, flat and protected. Parks should also be built within populated areas, so that people, and especially children, can easily and at all times have access to them.

No breakthrough in talks

(Continued from page 1)

agrees on a ceasefire. These preconditions, the sources said, were related to the Amal siege of Palestinian camps in Beirut and South Lebanon and to the future status of Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

The sources said that the Palestinians, represented at the meetings by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) of George Habash, were demanding that their evacuation of Maghdousheh should be coupled with a lifting of the Amal siege of their camps, especially the Rashidiyeh camp near Tyre.

Other Palestinian demands were for Syrian and Lebanese guarantees that the proposed ceasefire would be comprehensive and consolidated, Palestinian prisoners held by Amal would be released and concrete measures would be adopted to regulate the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

The Palestinians were also insisting that Syria and Lebanon guarantee that Amal would respect an earlier ceasefire agreement reached between the Shi'ite militia and the five-faction Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), which groups PLO factions opposed to Mr. Arafat but which joined Arafat loyalists in the Lebanese "camps war."

Mediators involved in the Damascus talks included Libya's number two man, Major Abdul Salaam Jalloud who arrived here on Monday, and Iranian envoy Hussein Sheikh Al Islam. Major Jalloud and Sheikh Al Islam were holding separate talks with the Palestinians and representatives of the Amal militia, and joint meetings with the Syrian side, headed by Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam. The Lebanese Community Party leader, George Hawi, is another mediator.

The sources said that the focus of all of the meetings was a draft agreement presented by leftist Lebanese parties on Monday night and accepted with reservations by the Palestinians, who have proposed certain amendments to it.

The original draft proposals suggested a two-stage solution to stop the ongoing fighting.

The first stage calls for an immediate ceasefire and the Palestinian withdrawal from Maghdousheh.

The second stage calls for a lifting of the Amal siege on the Rashidiyeh camp carried out in three days after the implementation of the provisions included in the first stage.

The representative of the Palestinians rejected the proposal when it was presented but later put forward amendments to it, calling for simultaneous implementation of all provisions included in it.

The proposed amendments included a clause demanding that forces from the Lebanese nationalist movement either from the PSP, the PLA or drawn from

all leftist parties take over Maghdousheh so as to prevent Amal from using the hilltop position to shell Palestinian refugee camps in Sidon. The amendments also included a schedule for the implementation of the proposal with and sought guarantees that Amal would honour its part of the bargain.

But Amal leader Nabih Berri, who boycotted all meetings with the Palestinians, rejected the demands, and sources close to the Lebanese delegation said on Wednesday Amal was still hoping to regain Maghdousheh through military means.

Other sources said that another proposal was submitted by Major Jalloud outlining the basics for an overall settlement of the dispute between the Palestinians and Amal and which could lead to an agreement covering Palestinian military presence in Lebanon.

The four-point Libyan proposal included the following:

— A comprehensive ceasefire.

— A Palestinian withdrawal from captured areas.

— A withdrawal of Amal forces from positions around all the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

— An arrangement on regulating future Lebanese-Palestinian relations.

The sources said that both Major Jalloud and Sheikh Al Islam supported continued Palestinian military presence in Lebanon and that the Iranian envoy expressed readiness to go to the Rashidiyeh camp to mediate a ceasefire and an end to the siege on that camp.

The emphasis on Rashidiyeh, according to Palestinian sources, is based on two factors:

First, the fact that the camp has been under siege for almost two months and that the Palestinians there are finding it impossible to get food, medical aid and even water into the camp due to the siege.

Second, Rashidiyeh is strategically important for both Amal and the Palestinians.

The strategic importance of Rashidiyeh was explained by the PFLP's second in command, Abul Ali Mustafa, who is leading the Palestinian delegation to the talks.

In an interview with reporters on Monday evening, Mr. Mustafa said the presence of the Palestinians in the Rashidiyeh camp "constitutes an obstacle for Amal to achieve its goal in South Lebanon."

Mr. Mustafa charged that "an Israeli-inspired wing within Amal led by Daoud Daoud was aiming at creating a Shi'ite canton in the south."

According to the PFLP official, the objective of creating such a canton was to form a buffer zone to prevent Palestinian and Lebanese resistance men from carrying out attacks against Israel, especially after the Israeli-sponsored and funded South Lebanon Army (SLA) has proved to be unsuccessful in carrying out its task for Israel.

Battle for Maghdousheh rages on

(Continued from page 1)

positions in the hills. Observers said a PSP intervention could swing the balance of power decisively in favour of the Amal militia.

They said Mr. Jumblatt, 37, had previously maintained a neutral stance in more than a year of Amal-Palestinian feuding at refugee settlements across the country.

Palestinian gunners positioned in PSP-held mountains also

bombarded crowded Shi'ite districts around Beirut's refugee camps, Beirut Radin reported.

Mr. Jumblatt said his men had confiscated some weapons from Palestinians in the area to prevent them shelling the city's southern suburbs.

Beirut/Radin also broadcast an Amal statement saying its militiamen had tightened their control of Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila "to prevent a Palestinian invasion of Beirut."

Arab countries expected to lead world immunisation campaign

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab countries are doing very well in their national immunisation campaigns and could lead the rest of the world in the international drive for universal child immunisation by the year 1990, says Mr. Richard Reid, UNICEF regional director for the Middle East and North Africa.

Mr. Reid expects that about 85 per cent of all children in the Arab World — estimated at between 27 million and 30 million — would be protected against six major killer diseases by 1990, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) lists the diseases as: whooping cough, diphtheria, measles, polio, tuberculosis and tetanus.

According to Mr. Reid, most Arab governments have realised the importance of protecting their future generation and have undertaken "good, strong and

concerted" efforts to achieve the universal immunisation goal. "There appears to be a healthy competition among the Arab countries to lead the campaign," he added.

Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Algeria have the largest number of children within the age range when they should undergo immunisation, and intense campaigns are under way in these countries. Next in the list are Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco but these do not need to have any accelerated campaigns since they had adopted immunisation campaigns years before, Mr. Reid said.

For instance, he said, it is not necessary to organise a nation-wide drive in Jordan similar to the one under way in Syria. Such efforts are necessary only in those countries where the rate of immunisation is very low to warrant a dramatic boost, he added.

Sudan, Lebanon and South Yemen are the three countries where the rate is very low, according to UNICEF statistics. In Sudan, efforts by UNICEF, as in the case of many other international agencies, tend to be bogged down in difficulties posed by the rebellion in the south.

According to Mr. Reid, access and contacts are the most difficult part in UNICEF efforts in Sudan. The situation is complicated by sporadic rounds of fighting which could undermine the most carefully prepared plan in the strife-torn and drought-stricken country.

UNICEF has sought the concerted help of all other international agencies working in Sudan to push immunisation, Mr. Reid said. However, he said, there are many problems which could be solved only within the environs of a stable country.

The only aircraft that UNICEF owns is deployed in Sudan. But

after the recent downing of a passenger plane and an incident where the UNICEF aircraft also came under fire, the agency's airlift operations are adversely affected.

UNICEF would be lucky of a hit target of 45 per cent immunisation in Sudan as compared to the 85 per cent elsewhere, according to Mr. Reid.

The situation is no different in Lebanon, where foundations of the whole health system have been torn apart by the 11-year-old civil strife.

The fighting in South Yemen early this year seriously undermined UNICEF efforts there and set back the agency's programmes by several years.

UNICEF is also running food and water projects in Sudan. It supplies a form of nutritional food — "Unimix" — containing high proteins and cereals to the children and operates artesian wells to provide water.

Children displaced by the war and drought are also a major problem for UNICEF in Sudan, Mr. Reid said. Most of these children are concentrated in Khartoum and if proper action is not taken they could pose much graver and serious problems as they grow up, he said.

A novel scheme to make these children earn a living and feel they belong to the society has been initiated by UNICEF. The scheme, formally called Street Kids Incorporated, involves employment for children as messengers in the Sudanese capital which is infamous for its erratic telephone and communications system. The scheme, which at present includes about 70 children, also involves delivery of newspapers.

Reflecting on the relatively low number of children incorporated in the scheme, Mr. Reid said: "the longest journey starts with a small first step."



Mothers and children line up for vaccinations at a health clinic during the Ministry of Health's immunisation campaign earlier this year (Petra photo).

The UNICEF director had high praise for the immunisation campaigns in Syria and Iraq. Both countries, he said, are pushing hard to cover as many children as possible in their campaigns and all sectors of the society have been mobilised in the effort.

The role of the General Federation of Iraqi Women (GFIW) has been most commendable in Iraq, Mr. Reid said. He pointed out that the success of UNICEF campaign in any country depends largely on "non-governmental organisations — which have direct access and contact with people of all levels."

UNICEF estimates that there are over 1.725,000 children under the age of one year and 2,100,000 between one and four years in Iraq. The first category is the target of UNICEF.

On the surface, the 85 per cent immunisation target falls short of the declared UNICEF goal of universal immunisation. But, Mr. Reid explained, once the target is achieved, the number of infant mortality will dramatically come down since the spread of any of the contactable child killers is limited to within the unprotected 15 per cent.

Mr. Reid referred to a recent conference held in Tunis on Arab child welfare and said he was impressed by the debates there. Twenty Arab countries attended the conference, which was organised by the Arab League, and the focus on the gathering was the general welfare and future of Arab children in which the drive for immunisation figured high.

Mr. Reid addressed the conference on Nov. 13. He emphasised the traditional reputation of the Arabs as pioneers in medicine and the healing arts and the emphasis Islam gives to health and hygiene and the importance given to child health in the verses of the Holy Koran. "Yet, somehow, despite this rich tradition of history and principle and practice, since nearly 3,500 young children die every day in this region from preventable diseases," Mr. Reid told the conference.

Highlighting the success of various national immunisation campaigns in the Arab World, Mr. Reid called for continuation of more intensified efforts towards protecting "God's most precious gift — our children."



Her Majesty Queen Noor has taken a keen interest in health care programmes for mother and children and visited several clinics to inspect vaccination campaigns being carried out in Jordan.

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Becker defeats McEnroe in battle of the serves

ATLANTA (AP) — In a match dominated by big serves, Boris Becker's return of serve finally overcame John McEnroe as the two-time Wimbledon champion pulled out a 6-3, 5-7, 7-5 victory in the first round of the \$500,000 At-and-T Tennis Challenge.

In an earlier first round match Tuesday, Ivan Lendl frequently passed Miloslav Mecir at the net to defeat his fellow Czech 6-4, 6-3.

Becker of West Germany, seeded third in the eight-man round-robin tournament, broke McEnroe in the fifth and ninth games to win the first set. McEnroe could manage no more than one point off Becker's serve.

McEnroe of the United States, seeded sixth, cashed in on the first break point of the second set in the 11th game when Becker pushed an easy return wide. McEnroe held his serve to pull even in the match.

Becker then held serve to open the third set.

The second game opened in a bizarre fashion when McEnroe

was assessed a penalty point between games, resulting in him opening the game down 0-15.

But Becker refused to accept the point and conceded a serve to even the game at 15-all and McEnroe won the game.

Becker won the third game after falling behind 0-30.

From then on, the player's serves took over: McEnroe won at love, Becker at 15, McEnroe at 30, Becker at love, McEnroe at 15 with two aces and a service winner, Becker at love.

In the 11th game, Becker again came back from 0-30 to win his serve and go up 6-5.

In the final game, McEnroe went up 30-0, but Becker drew even and put together two winners on returns-of-serve to take the match.

In the earlier match, Lendl, the

top seed, broke Mecir in the seventh game and then held serve twice to take the first set.

Mecir, seeded eighth, lost his serve to open the second set and Lendl moved to 2-0 as he held serve with three aces.

But Mecir broke through in the next game with a cross-court forehand and then held serve to even the set.

In the decisive fifth game, Lendl came back from 40-15 down to break Mecir and take a 3-2 lead. Both players held serve until the final game when Mecir lost his serve and the match.

Lendl next faces fourth-seeded Yannick Noah of France and Mecir goes against no. 5 Mikael Pernfors of Sweden. McEnroe faces no. 2 Mats Wilander of Sweden, while Becker plays no. 7 Brad Gilbert of the United States.

There will be no matches Thursday, but play will resume Friday with Gilbert facing McEnroe, Noah playing Mecir, Lendl against Pernfors and Wilander vs. Becker.

Noah and Wilander won their first-round matches Tuesday.

Jordan, Iraq to hold sports week

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Eid Dahiyat and an accompanying delegation returned to Amman from Baghdad on Wednesday, after a five-day official visit to Iraq during which he met with Taha Yassin Ramadan, first deputy Iraqi prime minister, Abdul Fattah Amin, secretary general of the Iraqi Ministry of Youth, and Addi Saddam Hussein, president of the Iraqi Olympic Committee.

Prior to his departure from Baghdad, Dr. Dahiyat told the Jordan News Agency Petra that both Jordan and Iraq have agreed to set up a Jordanian and Iraqi sports week in their respective countries. The Iraqi sports week will be held in Amman next November, on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's 52 birthday, while the Jordanian sports week in Iraq will take place during March of 1987, on the occasion of the birthday of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Both sides, the minister said, also agreed to exchange sports and youth delegations; Iraq showed its willingness to receive a number of Jordanian referees for short-term refresher courses.

Zamalek, Sports to meet in Africa Cup finals

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Zamalek, often motivated by living in the shadow of Cairo rival National, will be tested fully on Friday when it takes on Africa Sports of Ivory Coast in the first leg of the African Champions' Cup final.

The Cairo side is known to be keen to emulate the more consistent National team.

Zamalek will aim for a big home lead to take to Abidjan next month for the away leg, a comfort already enjoyed by National since it stroled to a 3-0 win over Gabon's Sogara last Friday in the first leg of African Cup Winners' Cup final.

While star-studded National found Sogara to be no match for its flair and skill, Zamalek's home clash should be a grueling affair if both sides play to form.

Zamalek has often proved to be bad travellers, so much depends on Friday's clash. The recovery of international sweeper Ibrahim Yousef from a recurring knee injury should give the team a measure of confidence.

Yousef, after an eight-month lay-off, made his first appearance for Zamalek last week in a friendly against a Kuwaiti team and scored one of his team's two goals.

Zamalek's forward line centres on Gamal Abdul-Hamid, who scored three goals to the semi-final against Cameroon's Canon Yaounde.

Except for striker Tareq Yehia and midfielder Ashraf Qasim, Zamalek comprises utilitarian players who, at peak form, can work well together.

Sports boasts a more glamorous line-up and has a score to settle with Egyptian sides going back to 1983, when Arab Contractors showed it the exit door in the semi-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup on its way to the title.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Lawson to play against England

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Pace Bowler Geoff Lawson will play in his first test match for almost 12 months against England, starting at the WACA Ground on Friday, Australian captain Allan Border announced Wednesday. Border also indicated the choice of 12th man will lie between Steve Waugh and the recalled Peter Sleep. The final 11 won't be named for the second test until Friday morning but Border tipped the selectors' hand when he came out of the nets from practice at the WACA Wednesday. Lawson was a shock omission from the first test 11 at the Gabba last week and the task of bowling out England was left to a trio of fast bowlers who had only eight test caps between them.

Basketball star dies from accident

LONDON (AP) — Larry Dassie, a basketball star at Kansas State University who became a crowd favourite with a succession of British professional teams, has died of injury, sustained in an automobile accident. He was 31. Authorities said Dassie died Tuesday from head injuries suffered in the crash a week ago. Dassie came to England in 1977 and helped Crystal Palace win the National League and Wimbledon Championships in the 1977-78 season. Dassie is survived by his wife, Sue.

World Soccer readers pick Maradona

LONDON (AP) — Diego Maradona, who led Argentina to the World Cup title in Mexico last summer, has been voted player of the year by readers of and contributors to World Soccer, the sport's prestigious international monthly magazine. The world team of the year award went to Argentina while Belgium's Guy Thys, whose country finished fourth in Mexico — its best ever World Cup position — was voted manager of the year. Maradona, who has never previously won the accolade since its inception in 1982, collected a landslide 35.8 per cent of the vote, almost 30 per cent more than runner-up Igor Belanov of the Soviet Union, who polled 6.2 per cent.

Koreas take early table tennis lead

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — North Korea and South Korea took an early lead after winning three games each in the first round of the men's division of the fourth annual Asian Table Tennis Championship. Japan, China and Taiwan each won two games Tuesday after the first round of 14 games in the men's championship, while Pakistan and Yemen had won one game each. A 15th match between Iran and Indonesia was abandoned when the players failed to show up. In the first round of women's play, China, North Korea and South Korea each won two apiece, while Taiwan and Japan won one game each.

Oakland's Canseco elected AL rookie

NEW YORK (AP) — Oakland A's outfielder Jose Canseco, who hit 33 homers and drove in 117 runs, was named rookie of the year in the American League, beating Wally Joyner of the California Angels in a close vote. Canseco received 16 of 28 first-place votes and 110 points to 12 first-place votes and 98 points for Joyner. Two writers from each of the league's 14 cities participated in the selection for the Baseball Writers Association of America held Tuesday, Canseco, who was born in Cuba and lives in Miami, Florida, is the first Oakland player to win the award. The last A's player to win it was Lou Piniella, when the team was based in Kansas City in 1969.

Brazil's Josimar detained by police

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil's brilliant World Cup soccer defender Josimar Pereira was detained on charges of assaulting a woman companion, a police spokesman said. He said the woman accused Josimar of refusing to pay her 2,000 cruzeiros (\$140) that had been agreed for a night out. Instead, the spokesman said, Josimar, 25, punched her in the face and was arrested by a policeman. Taken to a police precinct Tuesday night, Josimar was questioned and later released after paying a 10-cruzeiro (70-cent) bail.

Top scorer faces ankle operation

AMSTERDAM (R) — Ajax Amsterdam striker Marco Van Basten, top scorer in the Dutch First Division, will undergo an ankle operation next month which will sideline him for around six weeks. Van Basten, recently awarded the "golden boot" for being the top scorer in European soccer last season, will go into hospital on Dec. 15, the day after the Dutch League begins its winter break. The 22-year-old will rest until the second half of the season begins in February and will therefore miss The Netherlands' European Championship qualifier against Cyprus on Dec. 21.

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THE Daily Crossword by James R. Jones

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Highlander	1 Concorde
5 Theologian	2 Squad leader
10 Actress	3 Popcorn
11 Yehon	4 Ostrich
14 Fly alone	5 Striped
15 Aerialist	6 Instrument
16 Marketplace	7 Exchange
18 Jane's Abba	8 Premium
17 Jaded	
18 Saltpeter	
19 Inclination	
20 Leader born	
21 Karol Wojtyla	
22 Dulcane	
23 Mail St. name	
24 Sully pulper	
25 Drs.	
26 Concoction	
27 "I - Camera"	
28 Whopper	
29 System of belief	
30 Gary Cooper	
42 Stan off	
43 For shame!	
44 Actor Marlon	
45 Mafiosi mixer	
46 Golf word	
47 King of Thebes	
48 Lat. greeting	
49 Moon walk	
50 Oscar winning actress	
61 Laid down	
62 IV	
63 Came to rest	
64 Sp. river	
65 Teutonic	
66 Schuman	
67 Name in gold	
68 Who measure	
69 Gr. letter	
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73 Western show	
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Maradona steers Napoli toward first league title

By Clare Fallon
Reporter

ROME — Diego Armando Maradona, Argentina's World Cup hero, is preparing Napoli for the unaccustomed role of the bride after years of serving as bridesmaid in the Italian Soccer League.

"This, ladies and gentlemen," announced best man Maradona with satisfaction to journalists this week, "is the Napoli I have always searched for — a team that I like and a team that loves football."

The Napoli that has moved Maradona to such praise is riding high after knocking reigning champion Juventus from its comfortable perch and stealing the league lead for the first time in 11 years.

Captain Maradona, the driving force of the team, admits that his greatest dream, after taking Argentina to World Cup victory in Mexico in June, is to see Napoli win the league title for the first time in its 60-year history.

But the mood among squad and ally alike is subdued. All too accustomed to disappointment, with two second places and seven thirds in the past, the fans are waiting with bated breath to see if Napoli's fortunes will survive the still-long battle to the league shield which ends in May.

A 4-0 win over Empoli last Sunday, with Maradona contributing his fifth goal of the season, kept Napoli two points ahead of Juventus after 10 games.

Napoli hopes to increase the gap next Sunday when it hosts Verona while Juventus has a difficult away tie against Roma, runner-up last year.

But Juventus has been reduced this season by injuries to key players and the visible decline of France's Michel Platini.

Napoli devotees know that the Turin giants could yet come storming back and regain control.

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(Indian)

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Filipino military signal approval of ceasefire accord

MANILA (R) — The Philippine military Wednesday signalled its approval of a draft ceasefire accord with Communist rebels when a top-ranking officer agreed it was "workable."

Meanwhile, government negotiators drove off to a secret location to begin what they hoped would be the final talks with rebel envoys prior to a possible signing of the ceasefire agreement Thursday.

President Corason Aquino told negotiators Ramon Mitra and Teofisto Guingona to stay silent on the progress of their discussions so that she could announce the agreement herself.

Mr. Mitra was roundly criticised by the presidential palace for telling reporters Tuesday night an agreement in principle had been reached with the rebels, informed sources said.

Mr. Guingona and Mr. Mitra went over the draft with Mrs. Aquino and later with Armed Forces Chief Fidel Ramos and Defence Minister Rafael Iles before driving off to see Communist negotiators Antonio Zúñiga and Satur Ocampo.

Mr. Mitra said the draft was reviewed by the military "who will be the ones after all who will help in the implementation of the agreement."

Armed Forces Chief of Operations General Alexander Aguirre, who attended the briefing, told reporters the draft agreement "was presented and refined during the meeting."

Asked if he thought it was workable, he said: "We believe so." It was not known what changes, if any, the military requested.

The Aquino government hopes the signing of the draft ceasefire will take place Thursday, the anniversary of the birth of Mrs. Aquino's assassinated husband Benigno.

The government negotiators spent eight hours with rebel counterparts Tuesday and Mr. Mitra announced afterwards that an agreement in principle had been reached on all major points.

This included accord on what constituted a hostile act, but on Wednesday he toned down his optimism and said he hoped nothing would stop the talks to end the 17-year Communist insurgency.

After Mr. Mitra briefed Mrs. Aquino, presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno said: "Things are being thrashed out as far as President Aquino is concerned. She certainly desires that the ceasefire (agreement) can be reached before the end of the month."

Meanwhile a founder of the Communist rebel New Peoples Army (NPA) offered his services to the Defence Ministry Wednesday as government and rebel negotiators tried to put finishing touches to a ceasefire.

Bernardo Buscayno — Commander Dante — one of the founders of the NPA, went to defence headquarters to offer his services to new Defence Minister Rafael Iles for the sake of national reconciliation.

Mr. Buscayno, released from

detention by Mrs. Aquino when she came to office, is no longer active in the Communist rebellion but is said to have enormous influence in the left.

"I'm offering my services to Defence Minister Iles in his effort to settle peace in the country," Mr. Buscayno told reporters after meeting the minister for half an hour.

"I am thankful that we now have a defence minister with a high reputation and clean record, known for his sincerity in securing peace," he said.

Mr. Iles told reporters, without elaborating: "If that is his offer I am ready to cooperate for the good of the country."

Mrs. Aquino will name her new cabinet lineup Friday, her spokesman announced. All her ministers, including Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, resigned last weekend.

Spokesman Teodoro Benigno refused Wednesday to say which ministers would be replaced. But he said he was sticking by an earlier statement that between two and four members of the 25-minister cabinet would be replaced.

All cabinet ministers handed in their resignations last Sunday, at Mrs. Aquino's request, after officials said the Philippine military had blocked a coup bid by disaffected officers associated with Mr. Enrile.

Philippine newspapers have mentioned Local Government Minister Aquilino Pimentel, Labour Minister Augusto Sanchez, Natural Resources Minister Ernesto Maceda and Public Works Minister Rogacion Mercado as earmarked for replacement.

government was seeking to uphold the principle of confidentiality which bars former intelligence agents from revealing government secrets.

Without confidentiality, she said, "there could be no effective security service."

The prime minister rejected requests to set up a committee of eminent public figures, lawmakers and others, to oversee the running of Britain's security services.

One has to trust those who are in charge of the security services," she said.

Liberal leader David Steel

Thatcher resists attack over spy book case

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher fended off repeated opposition attacks Tuesday on the government's attempt to ban a book written by a retired British intelligence agent.

The British government is trying to prevent publication in Australia of a book called "Spycatcher" by Peter Wright, who worked from 1955 to 1976 for M15, Britain's counter espionage agency.

Mrs. Thatcher refused to answer any questions about Britain's legal challenge, repeatedly stating that the

government was seeking to uphold the principle of confidentiality which bars former intelligence agents from revealing government secrets.

Without confidentiality, she said, "there could be no effective security service."

The prime minister rejected requests to set up a committee of eminent public figures, lawmakers and others, to oversee the running of Britain's security services.

One has to trust those who are in charge of the security services," she said.

demanded to know why journalist Chapman Pincher's book, "their trade is treachery," was published in 1981 without any challenge from Wright. Mrs. Thatcher repeated her statement about confidentiality involving government employees.

Opposition leader Neil Kinnock accused the government of putting Sir Robert Armstrong, secretary to the British cabinet who is presenting the government's case in Australia, "in a very exposed position that ensures that attention is drawn to disclosures harmful to national security."

Soviets spent more than U.S. on nuclear defence, CIA says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union has spent much more than the United States on developing a strategic nuclear defence, says Robert M. Gates, deputy director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA estimates that over the past 10 years the Soviets have spent nearly \$150 billion on strategic defence, almost 15 times what the United States has spent, Mr. Gates said.

In remarks Tuesday to a foreign policy group in San Francisco, Mr. Gates said the Soviet Union used the money to upgrade and expand the operational ballistic missile defence system installed around Moscow to the limits allowed by the 1972 ABM, or anti-ballistic missile, treaty.

In addition, he said, the Soviets are taking steps that would permit widespread deployment of anti-ballistic missiles and now have the major radar, launcher, and other components for deployment "well in excess of ABM treaty limits."

"Taken together, all of the Soviet Union's ABM and ABM-related activities are more significant and more ominous than any one considered individually," he said. "Cumulatively, they suggest that the USSR may be preparing an ABM defence of its national territory."

Mr. Gates offered his remarks as an argument for continued research and development of the "Star Wars" space-based nuclear defence system proposed by President Ronald Reagan, formally called the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

In addition to anti-ballistic missiles, Mr. Gates said the Soviets have pursued advanced technologies for strategic defence. He said the Soviets have worked as long as the United States in laser, particle beam, kinetic energy and microwave technology, including research toward ground-based anti-satellite laser weapons and strong radio frequency signals that could interfere with the electronics of missile warheads.

Contra leader denies knowledge on arms cash

SAN JOSE (Agencies) — One of the top leaders of the U.S.-backed anti-government rebels in Nicaragua, Alfonso Robelo, has strongly denied any knowledge of the \$10 to \$30 million of cash from U.S. arms sales to Iran said to have gone to the rebels.

Mr. Robelo said he was "totally surprised" by Tuesday's disclosures by President Reagan and Attorney-General Edwin Meese that funds were diverted to the contras from secret arms deals with Iran, but he indicated that money might have reached contras in the field without the full leadership knowing exactly where it came from.

In Miami, fellow contra leader Adolfo Calero said he knew of no connection between the contras, who are fighting to topple the Nicaraguan government, and any U.S.-Iranian arms deal.

Mr. Robelo, who disappeared from a major contra meeting here earlier Tuesday and was thought to have flown to Miami for discussions with the two other men who make up the contra leadership, appeared abruptly at a cocktail party for the contra delegates Tuesday night and told Reuters:

"One, this is the first I have heard of any such thing. I know nothing whatsoever of this operation. For me, this is something totally new."

"Two, I have no knowledge, from any report, or any meeting of the (three-man) directorate (of the rebels' umbrella grouping, the

Unified Nicaraguan Opposition) that there exists an account in Switzerland belonging to the Unified Nicaraguan Opposition," Mr. Robelo stated.

Pressed as to where the money might be, or might have gone, however, he replied: "To be totally frank with you, I know that, for approximately two years the struggle has been continuing in the military area with private donations. 'And it was only on Oct. 24 this year that North American (U.S.) aid resumed,' he said. He appeared to be indicating that money could have reached the guerrillas without his knowledge or on the assumption that it was part of private donations from contra sympathisers.

"It's not difficult for a large sum to get used for military purposes. But that (the money) might have been an origin, well, from my point of view, this is completely unknown," Mr. Robelo said.

Meanwhile Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Tuesday accused U.S. President Ronald Reagan of knowing that up to \$30 million was diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

Mr. Ortega said his Sandinista government would file a formal protest against the United States over the issue.

"He knew what was happening, so he is deceiving the North American Congress and is violating American and international laws," Mr. Ortega told reporters.

Australia arrests 8 over Turkish consulate blast

SYDNEY (R) — Five men and three women have been arrested in Canberra and Sydney in connection with a car bomb explosion outside the Turkish consulate in Melbourne, police said Wednesday.

The fragmented remains of a person, believed to be the bomber, were found after the explosion, which extensively damaged the five-story building on Sunday. Police have yet to identify the dead person.

They said the bomb, which could have contained up to four kilograms of explosives, was so powerful they were unable to identify the make of car used.

Police said all the eight people arrested during overnight raids were Australians and investigations were still continuing.

A group calling itself the Greek-Bulgarian-Armenian Front telephoned an international news agency in Sydney claiming responsibility for the bombing and said there would be more attacks.

The caller listed a number of grievances against Turkey, including the creation of a Turkish Republic in Cyprus.

Police and Foreign Ministry officials said they had not heard of the group but it could be an offshoot of a larger organisation.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke condemned the bombing as repugnant and horrific and said security would be strengthened at foreign missions throughout Australia.

The bombing was the second attack against a Turkish consulate in Australia in the last six years.

COLUMNS 768

2 Thais get 448 years for rape

BANGKOK (R) — Two Thai fishermen have been sentenced to 448 years imprisonment each for abducting and raping two Vietnamese refugees at sea, court officials said. They were charged on Nov. 10 in provincial court in Trat province in the Gulf of Thailand. The officials said the two men were arrested last May after the Vietnamese girls escaped from a boat and told police they had been abducted and repeatedly raped for 28 days during January and February. The men were sentenced to 16 years each for every day the girls were held but will serve only 50 years, the maximum under Thai law.

'Stinking reporters' banned from palace

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — It may raise a stink among the Manila press corps, but President Corason Aquino has banned the foul-smelling reporters and photographers from the grounds of the Malacanang presidential palace. Presidential security guards announced this week that "foul smelling" reporters will no longer be allowed inside the palace, especially in enclosed, air-conditioned rooms. The scent test for admissions to the palace follows rules announced a few weeks ago requiring leather shoes for men and banning reporters wearing jeans and T-shirts. "You might be in the right shoes, the right shirt, but if you stink bad, we will not allow you to get inside the palace," Col. Clio Erice told reporters. Jeans and shirts without collars are considered common, acceptable street dress in casual Manila, where daytime temperatures rarely drop below the mid 80s (low 30s C). Press Department staffers explained that the new rules are to ensure that poorly dressed reporters do not cheapen the dignity of the office of the president.

China publishes first volume of dictionary

TOKYO (AP) — Leading Chinese linguists have published the first volume of the country's biggest dictionary, in the southern port of Shanghai. It contains 32,000 entries, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. It quoted one of the dictionary's 400 editors as saying the completed 12-volume dictionary will compile nearly all the characters created in China's 5,000-year history. The final volume will be completed in 1990 and the dictionary will have 370,000 entries, the editor was quoted as saying. The report did not say when work began.

Hispanic population growing in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Hispanic population of the United States is growing three times faster than the nation overall and Hispanics may account for 12 percent of U.S. residents by 2020, the census bureau has said. A census study projects the white non-Hispanic population, now accounting for 80 percent of the total population, will drop to 74 percent in the year 2000, 66 percent in 2030 and 57 percent in 2080. The white population may peak in size by 2020 and then steadily decrease, the report said. In the next 20 years, increase in the Hispanic population will account for one-quarter of the nation's total growth, the study said. The Hispanic projections do not include figures for Hispanic residents entering the country illegally, which the government estimates at 150,000 per year. The author of the census report, Gregory Spencer, said that since this study was prepared, bureau officials have begun including the illegal population in their studies. The report said the Hispanic population may double within 30 years and triple within 60. Most of the growth will be attributed to births, which are expected to rise to 500,000 in the year 2000, compared with 400,000 in 1982. The projections are the first the census bureau has compiled dealing specifically with Hispanic population growth.

Afghans, helped by Soviets, reportedly crush rebel base

MOSCOW (R) — The Afghan army overran a rebel base near the Pakistani border at the weekend, killing more than 500 Islamic guerrillas and seizing large quantities of weapons, the Soviet army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said Wednesday.

Soviet troops took part in the operation in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province where the rebel Islamic Party of Afghanistan had set up a large base housing more than 700 people in the Marulgh Canyon, it said.

"From Nov. 21-23 detachments of the Afghan army and border forces as well as Peoples' Militia, supported by detachments from the limited contingent of Soviet troops, crushed this Dushan (Islamic rebel) base," the newspaper said.

"More than 500 bandits were killed and 48 storehouses captured with arms and weaponry including 5,000 mines, some 3,500 rounds for grenade launchers, more than eight tonnes of explosives, 1,696 anti-tank mines, 1,764 anti-personnel mines."

Krasnaya Zvezda said the base, located one kilometre from the Pakistani border, also had a radio transmitter.

It quoted captured rebels as saying 10 to 15 American and Pakistani military advisers had been working at the base.

The newspaper said most of the captured arms were made in the United States, Britain and West Germany, adding:

"The amount of captured weaponry shows the scale of the undeclared war against Afghanistan and tells much about the hostile forces, chiefly the United States, which are financing the Afghan counter-revolution."

The newspaper said the destruction of the base showed "the growing fighting capacity" of the Afghan army. It said workers, peasants and youths had taken up arms in large numbers recently, with 3,000 new enlistments in the army.

Western military experts estimate the Soviet Union had some 115,000 troops helping Kabul to fight Western-backed Afghan guerrillas.

Argentina scores diplomatic victory over Falklands issue

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Argentina scored a big diplomatic victory over Britain in their Falklands dispute as the U.N. General Assembly, by the widest margin ever on this question, called on both nations to negotiate.

The assembly Tuesday overrode British opposition to unconditional talks by 116 votes to four, with 34 members abstaining.

Belize, Oman and Sri Lanka joined Britain among the noes. The Netherlands, which abstained on a similar text last year, was among five European Community members siding with the Argentine position.

The United States and France voted for the resolution, as did Canada and Australia.

Just before voting began, the British delegate Sir John Thomson, said the resolution was seductive in its simplicity and cosmetic appeal but was really pro-Argentina because it endorsed a call for negotiations that would include that country's

claim to sovereignty over the Falklands.

"We are prepared to discuss everything but sovereignty," he said. "Argentina refuses to discuss anything unless sovereignty is on the agenda."

He termed these positions irreconcilable.

After Argentina invaded the Falklands, which it calls Malvinas, in 1982, British troops fought a 10-week war to recapture the colony for the crown.

Tuesday's resolution was the General Assembly's fifth on the Falklands issue since that conflict and it continued a pattern of growing support for Argentine diplomacy in the dispute. A virtual identical text received 107 affirmative votes last year.

There was no immediate explanation for Tuesday's big vote, but during the debate Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and several other delegates strongly criticised Britain's Oct. 29 declaration of a 150-mile fisheries conservation area around the islands.

Pope appeals to Catholics to come back to church

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Pope John Paul II issued a passionate appeal on Wednesday to Roman Catholics who have left the church to come back.

The Pope, speaking in a country where less than one-third of its 2.9 million Roman Catholics go to mass regularly, said it was no longer just a question of spreading the gospel to those who haven't heard it but of reaching those who have heard it "but no longer respond."

The Pope later drew his largest crowd yet in this nation of 16 million people, an estimated 200,000 faithful at a mass at a Sydney racetrack, and told them: "I am thinking of those baptised in the faith who are no longer actively present in the church."

"They are of many different types and the reasons for their absence from the community of Christ's faithful are also many," he said.

The Pontiff, on the third day of his visit to Australia, touched on a problem plaguing not only the church in this country but many Western countries where mass attendance is sharply down. Catholics don't go to confession

and ignore church teaching opposing artificial birth control and abortion.

Since starting the Australian leg of his two-week Asian and Pacific pilgrimage, the Pope has gently chided his flock without harshly condemning those who have strayed from church teaching.

In his homily during the mass, the Pope conceded that some have "perhaps been hurt by the church, by the misunderstanding or abruptness of the church's ministers, by the scandal of their fellow Christians ..."

"To all of those who have wandered from their spiritual home I wish to say: Come back. The church opens her arms to you, the church loves you."

In a whirlwind day of touring this eastern seaboard city of 3 million, Pope John Paul went by helicopter to meet industrial workers at their factory, donning a white hard hat.

He also met members of the Jewish community, university professors, Catholic bishops and saw the Opera House, where he posed for pictures with the famed Harbour Bridge in the background.

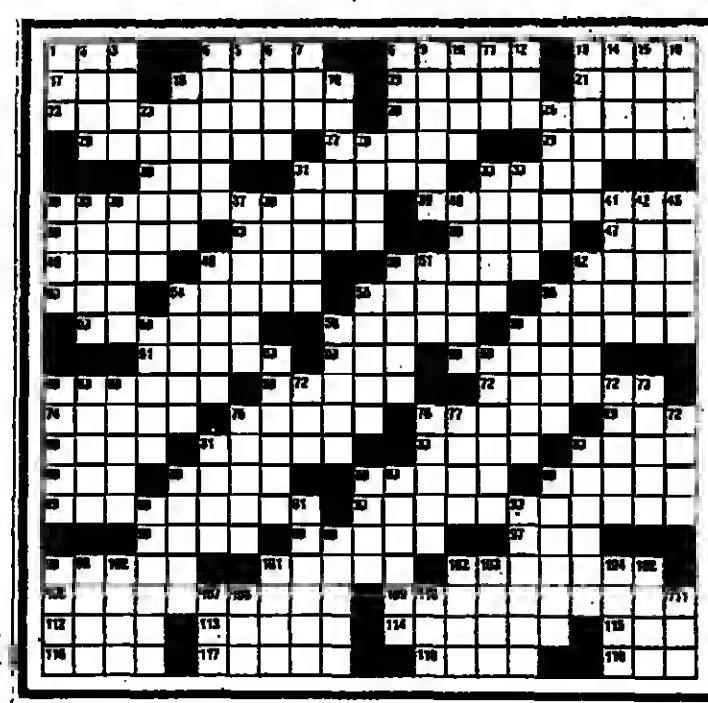
WEEKEND CROSSWORD

A DOZEN HIDDEN CAPITALS

By Diane C. Baldwin

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Last Week's Cryptograms

- "Murphy's Law" must be a misnomer. Only a committee could have devised such a preface to bewilder us.
- Considered a puzzling riddle whose graphic answer is a minor pang.
- The exquisite liquor had surprised and delighted the exacting palate.
- Vivid colors in bedroom made churchly husband livid.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. EDA IAGEDNAES FOK LI EDA LRZ
IMIMAE HOT CASE DONA PAAS ET
ECLZLIX, ECLBLSA FLNAKEMFRA

—By Connie Rosenfeld

2. JMTI CLUMSE, LMTFRME PRUPR EH
ALL EF HFOXTFA OPTIMO QLT QFXAO

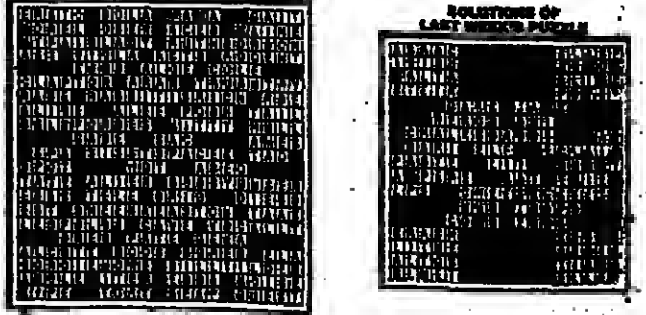
—By Lois H. Jones

3. CTJD TJLJLT JFTEL YTDY ADZ MJST
MAZ BAIT LA HRET MAIST HCAE BXY

—By Earl Ireland

4. INNSO MIK CIL EUCMILK GESH ES
CIL TARANO KATHAR EUC PUT

—By George Pritchard



GOEN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOEN AND OMAR SHARIF
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JUST ONE MORE CHANCE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 982
♥ AKJ6
♦ AK78
♣ J3

WEST EAST
♠ KJ763 ♠ 104
♥ 972 ♥ 1084
♦ 110 ♦ 953
♣ Q105 ♣ 98782

SOUTH
♠ AQ5
♥ Q53
♦ Q842
♣ AK4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♣.

Don't ignore spot cards when you plan your campaign. North's ♠ 4 of spades was a vital ingredient in this deal, reported in "Bridge," the official magazine of the Netherlands Bridge Union.

After South's one no trump opening bid, North first probed for a possible ♠ 4 heart fit. When South denied a four-card major, North upgraded his two aces to a combined

and leaped straight to the small slam.

As the cards lie, six diamonds would have been a superior contract. However, the declarer, Max Rebatus at Amsterdam, made the most of his cards. He won the diamond lead in dummy and then cashed exactly three rounds at hearts when that suit split evenly.

Next came a diamond to the queen and, when both defenders followed to that, the eight of diamonds to the king exhausted the defenders of that suit as well and left the high diamond on the table.

New declarer led the nine of spades. Had East covered, declarer would have inserted the queen to prevent East from winning the trick. Even if